

History of Milestone

1893-1910

AS COMPILED BY
A. W. GARRATT
OF
MILESTONE BANK

Can. Garratt, A.W.

History of Milestone

1893 — 1910



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1947

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Introduction

Compiling this history of Milestone and district was suggested to the writer by the Milestone Community Club. It was more than a suggestion; it was an urgent request.

On June 22nd, 1927, the Community Club was sponsoring an Old-Timers Get-together or Home-coming and sent out written invitations to all Milestone Old-Timers whose addresses could be obtained. Mr. John R. Bunn, of Victoria, B.C., who was the first business man in Milestone and who was looked upon by many as the father of the town, replied in a fine letter full of reminiscences and suggested that the Community Club induce some one to prepare memoirs of the early days of Milestone and district, and deposit them with the Legislative Librarian at Regina. He thought they might be valuable data for history at some future date. He stated he had given the matter a little consideration himself, but soon found there were so many things to look up that he had neither the time nor patience to go on with it. He suggested, however, that they contact either A. J. Bradley, J. J. Currie or A. W. Garratt, all old-timers, any of whom should be capable of doing the work. The lot fell on Garratt who very reluctantly agreed to undertake the job.

It was soon discovered that Mr. Bunn's reasons for not attempting the history were good ones. It has entailed countless interviews and a large volume of correspondence to establish or corroborate the facts and dates as set forth therein. We wish to heartily thank all those who have assisted us in this work. If errors have crept into the record, and that is possible, we sincerely regret the fact. We have done our utmost to avoid errors.

We also regret the fact that the history has been so long delayed. Started about twenty years ago, it has been pigeon-holed for months at a time, owing to pressure

of other important work; in fact, during the last war, when labor was so scarce, it was almost forgotten for over five straight years. However, an occasional reminder from the Community Club urging that the work be completed, has had results.

When this history was begun there was no intention of carrying it further than 1902 or 1903; but the development at that date was so rapid and important, there appeared to be no place to stop. Therefore, it has been carried on to include 1910, with only a few odd references to persons or events after that date.

When practically completed, the manuscripts were handed to a few old-timers, and others to review and comments were invited. The main criticism was, that not sufficient attention had been given to the individual farmer. A suggestion was made that a short personal note be included covering the names of each pioneer farmer and his family, if any, where they hailed from, the date of arrival, where they settled in the district and their contribution, if any, to the various community movements, such as the churches, schools, farmer's organizations, municipal government, etc.

Admittedly, that would have been a very interesting addition, and no doubt, a valuable source of information for future readers; but to go back thirty-five years and dig up the necessary data covering nearly four hundred farmers was a task too great to assume. Such a note might have been included covering a few outstanding farmers, but to mention only a few and omit all others, would have been unwise, unfair, and open to criticism.

Therefore, omitting the suggested addition, the history now goes to the public and we trust that it may prove to be of some interest and benefit not only to old-timers, but to others in the years to come.

A.W.G.

1893 to 1899

The Soo Line extension of the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed from North Portal to Pasqua Junction during the summer of 1893, and appeared on the first passenger time card under date of September 24th, of that year. As the construction of the Railway progressed, section houses were erected at Macoun, Yellow Grass, and Rouleau and station houses at Estevan, Weyburn and Milestone. Milestone was named in honour of C. W. Milestone, the Superintendent of the new Soo Line extension.

All that vast tract of open prairie through which the new railway had been constructed was called the South Regina Plains, and was known back in the eighties and early nineties as the "Dry Belt." In fact the whole region south of Regina was set down in 1857-58 by Captain Palliser, as being included within the boundaries of the "Great American Desert."

For nearly six years after the advent of the railway there was absolutely no settlement or signs of life except the section gangs at their work on the track, or the antelope and jack rabbit as they flitted away from the passing trains. Passengers on the early trains were amazed at the vast expanse and beauty of the level prairie which swept away unbroken to the skyline on every side. They were puzzled by the fact that such a beautiful tract of land was not being settled. They had reason to wonder, for it is doubtful if either of our railway systems have ever opened up a more productive area.

Prior to 1898 several ranchers had established themselves on Long Creek, Rough Bark and Moose Jaw Creek. The Hugh Armour ranch was located on Long Creek about 25 miles south west of Milestone. Mowatt Brothers had a large ranch also on Long Creek near the present Town of Avonlea. At one time this ranch handled about

2,000 horses. Lew and Will Bratt, Ed. Jones and C. E. Jones, all of the Buck Lake district, had ranches on the Rough Bark, where for 15 years they wintered most of their stock. Bratts specialized in pure bred Clydesdale horses and Shorthorn cattle, prize winners at that. Other ranchers on the Rough Bark were Albert Parrot, George Grassick and Whitmore Brothers, all of Regina. J. R. Egerton established a ranch on the Moose Jaw Creek about six miles west of Milestone in 1894, which he operated about 4 or 5 years, when he sold out to H. Molleken.

It was reported that some of these ranchers kept the 'Dry Belt' idea well advertised, perhaps to retard for as long as possible, the settlement of this beautiful stretch of farm land. Be that as it may, no development of any kind was attempted in what is now the Milestone District, until the fall of 1898. The section gangs moving up and down the line at their work, noting the luxuriant growth of grass and wild flowers, were convinced that the soil must be good. The 'Dry Belt' idea had become a joke, for these early homesteaders were all satisfied that the Milestone land offered excellent opportunities for farming. The first homesteads were filed on by two section-men, John and Thomas Barmby, in the fall of 1898. During the year 1899, thirty-eight homestead entries were made in the district.

The first sod was broken by rancher Egerton, four or five acres on which he raised oats in the summer of 1896. It was a fine stand and although he had no machinery to handle it, the evidence was there, that the soil was first class. The next breaking was done by John Barmby in the Spring of 1899. He was still working on the section and before and after C.P.R. hours he did his breaking with a team of oxen. The mosquitoes were so bad that it required two or three men to handle the job. Tom Barmby, Arthur and Robert Rennick, all section men,

also had a little breaking done that spring on their homesteads.

From the time that the railway was put through, the station house was the home of the C.P.R. agent or operator; also the home of both of the section foremen and their gangs. For some six years these few people made up the whole population.

In addition to those already mentioned, the following is a list of the C.P.R. section hands employed during 1899 and 1900. Ole Sanquist, foreman; Bert Fisher, Sylvester Fisher, Jack Douglas, Geo Rooney, Robert Rennick, Arthur Rennick, Alfred Carlson, foreman; John T. Rooney, Clem Wyler, Jake Abelson, and Sam Stephens. Most of these men took up homesteads and remained as citizens of the district, becoming successful farmers.

Some of the early operators or agents were as follows: George Barber, A. G. Way, Robert Cairns, George Strathmore, Mr. Schiller, Mr. Munroe and Thomas B. Smith.

What made life tolerable in those early days was the fact that there was a daily passenger service each way. The nearest Post Office was at Moose Jaw, and the C.P.R. baggage man brought daily, all the mail for the Milestone community, leaving it at the station, where every man sorted out his own. This primitive postal service for which the few residents were extremely thankful, continued until the spring of 1900.

H. Bergsteinson, one of the early section foremen, who was a married man, took charge of the station house early in the spring of 1895. In August of the same year his son, Baldien Bergsteinson, was born, being the first child born at Milestone.

Alfred Carlson, also a section foreman, succeeded Bergsteinson as occupant of the station house. Mr. Carlson immediately sent for his wife and family, still resident in Sweden, who arrived in September 1896. Mrs. Carlson

started the first real boarding house, and as one old-timer declares, "It was a good one". By this time there was considerable travel between Regina, Buck Lake and several ranches to the south; also some travel up and down the railway. Carlson's boarding house was the only place for miles where a traveller could get a meal or shelter for the night. At times the Carlson 'Half-way house' as it was frequently called, became so seriously overcrowded, that even floor space was at a premium. Mrs. Carlson was always equal to the occasion. She became a mother to all the younger C.P.R. employees who boarded with her, and to some bachelor-homesteaders living near. She endeared herself to all the travellers who passed that way, even the hobos always getting a hand-out with a cheery word. Since her recent death, a neighbour who knew her in the early days remarked, "She was a good soul, and has left behind her a memory fragrant with an influence which cannot be estimated."

On April 17, 1898 a blessed event occurred at the Carlson home, when Fred A. Carlson was born. Although an earlier birth has been recorded, Fred A. Carlson was the first child born to parents who became permanent citizens of the community.

THE FIRST HOMESTEADERS

Years after the opening up of any new section of country, when a new generation or two have appeared, arguments or speculation often arise as to whose father or grandfather actually did file first on certain homesteads in the community. Anticipating such a probability, a careful inspection of the old records of the office of Dominion Lands has been made, revealing the names of the earliest homesteaders, the exact date on which they made entry, and the quarter section filed on. A list of the first 96 entries made from 1898 to 1901 follows in detail.

Name	Date	Land
John Barmby	Oct. 13, 1898.....	N.E. 10-12-19-2
Thomas Barmby	Oct. 13, 1898.....	S.E. 10-12-19-2
Justin R. Egerton	April 18, 1899.....	N.W. 14-12-20-2
Henry Molleken	May 6, 1899.....	S.E. 18-12-19-2
Chas. Everett Jones	June 26, 1899.....	S.W. 22-12-19-2
Arthur Rennick	June 29, 1899.....	N.W. 10-12-19-2
Robert Rennick	June 29, 1899.....	N.E. 4-12-19-2
Leslie W. Cameron	July 3, 1899.....	N.E. 16-12-19-2
Ormand E. Perkins	July 8, 1899.....	S.W. 2-12-19-2
Edwin E. Jones	July 13, 1899.....	N.W. 22-12-19-2
Wm. R. Perkins	July 17, 1899.....	N.E. 2-12-19-2
Wilbur M. Perkins	July 17, 1899.....	N.W. 2-12-19-2
George A. Cameron	July 21, 1899.....	S.E. 16-12-19-2
Wm. S. Cameron	July 21, 1899.....	S.W. 14-12-19-2
Robert M. Anderson	July 31, 1899.....	N.E. 14-12-19-2
Wm. H. Garratt	July 31, 1899.....	S.E. 14-12-19-2
Alfred Carlson	Aug. 12, 1899.....	N.W. 16-12-19-2
Wm. George Rooney	Aug. 12, 1899.....	S.W. 16-12-19-2
Benjamin Hubbs	Aug. 12, 1899.....	S.W. 18-12-19-2
John Molleken	Aug. 14, 1899.....	N.E. 18-12-19-2
Richard Dinning	Aug. 15, 1899.....	S.E. 20-12-19-2
George M. Perkins	Aug. 15, 1899.....	N.E. 26-11-19-2
Sylvester Fisher	Aug. 15, 1899.....	N.W. 36-11-19-2
Bert Fisher	Aug. 15, 1899.....	N.E. 36-11-19-2
George Webster	Aug. 17, 1899.....	N.W. 24-12-19-2
Harold Webster	Aug. 17, 1899.....	N.E. 24-12-19-2
Myron S. Fredenberg	Aug. 24, 1899.....	S.W. 36-12-19-2
Fred Butt	Aug. 30, 1899.....	S.E. 12-12-19-2
Albert Butt	Aug. 30, 1899.....	S.W. 12-12-19-2
John Wesley Wyrin	Sept. 2, 1899.....	S.W. 18-12-18-2
William Abbey	Sept. 5, 1899.....	N.W. 18-12-18-2
James Ritchie, Sr.	Sept. 9, 1899.....	N.W. 6-12-18-2
James Ritchie, Jr.	Sept. 9, 1899.....	N.E. 12-12-19-2
Norman Ritchie	Sept. 9, 1899.....	N.E. 6-12-18-2
Walter H. England	Oct. 9, 1899.....	N.E. 22-12-19-2
Wm. Albert Ross	Oct. 11, 1899.....	S.W. 20-12-19-2
George T. Robinson	Oct. 11, 1899.....	N.W. 14-12-19-2
Joseph Woods	Oct. 11, 1899.....	N.E. 30-12-19-2
Angus A. Ross	Oct. 21, 1899.....	N.W. 20-12-19-2
George Galbraith	Nov. 20, 1899.....	S.W. 30-12-19-2

Name	Date	Land
Johann Molleken	Jan. 5, 1900	N.W. 18-12-19-2
William Queale	Apr. 9, 1900	N.E. 28-12-19-2
Jeremiah Queale	Apr. 9, 1900	N.W. 28-12-19-2
A. McMillan	Apr. 9, 1900	N.E. 34-12-19-2
Angus McLellan	Apr. 9, 1900	S.E. 28-12-19-2
William Cripps	Apr. 14, 1900	S.E. 6-12-18-2
William J. Boyd	Apr. 21, 1900	N.W. 30-11-18-2
Henry J. Allen	Apr. 29, 1900	S.E. 30-12-18-2
John D. McEachern	May 3, 1900	S.E. 24-12-19-2
Richard A. England	May 5, 1900	N.E. 24-12-20-2
William Bradley	May 5, 1900	S.E. 32-12-19-2
Clancy Gates	May 5, 1900	N.E. 32-12-19-2
David W. Allen	May 7, 1900	N.E. 30-12-18-2
Wesley Gates	May 8, 1900	N.W. 32-12-19-2
Neil Galbraith	May 8, 1900	N.W. 30-12-19-2
James H. Clark	May 12, 1900	N.E. 36-12-20-2
John A. McEachern	May 15, 1900	S.W. 30-12-18-2
Ludwig Monson	May 15, 1900	S.E. 30-11-18-2
Jacob Abelson	May 15, 1900	N.E. 30-11-18-2
Herbert C. Cave	May 15, 1900	S.E. 6-12-19-2
Sam A. Stephenson	May 21, 1900	N.W. 20-11-18-2
David Barkwell	May 21, 1900	S.W. 36-11-19-2
William R. Glenn	May 21, 1900	S.E. 4-13-19-2
James Glenn	May 21, 1900	N.W. 4-13-19-2
John E. Glenn	May 22, 1900	S.W. 4-13-19-2
Albert H. Broadfoot	May 22, 1900	N.E. 4-13-19-2
Henry C. Parsons	June 6, 1900	N.W. 22-12-20-2
William Henry Bunn	June 18, 1900	S.E. 10-13-19-2
Joseph G. Robb	June 18, 1900	S.W. 16-13-19-2
Thomas E. Bunn	June 27, 1900	S.W. 10-12-19-2
Alexander Windrem	July 21, 1900	N.W. 12-12-19-2
Alonzo Meek	July 24, 1900	N.E. 10-13-19-2
George W. Lyons	July 24, 1900	N.W. 10-13-19-2
Ronald D. McEachern	Aug. 7, 1900	S.W. 24-12-19-2
Walter B. Perkins	Aug. 16, 1900	N.E. 26-12-19-2
Durican McLellan	Sept. 1, 1900	S.W. 28-12-19-2
Thomas Coulter	Sept. 1, 1900	N.W. 4-12-19-2
Nelson Butcher	Sept. 5, 1900	S.W. 4-12-19-2
Andrew Todd	Oct. 11, 1900	S.E. 30-12-19-2
Wm. Geo. Townsley	Nov. 5, 1900	N.W. 32-11-19-2

Name	Date	Land
William M. Ames	Nov. 10, 1900	N.E. 32-11-19-2
Charles E. Ames	Nov. 10, 1900	S.E. 32-11-19-2
Archie McArthur	Nov. 12, 1900	S.E. 34-12-20-2
Peter McArthur	Nov. 12, 1900	S.W. 34-12-20-2
E. E. Howson	Nov. 12, 1900	N.E. 34-12-20-2
Joseph Glenn	Nov. 16, 1900	S.W. 6-13-19-2
John W. Longbottom	Nov. 19, 1900	N.W. 16-12-18-2
Charlie Moerike	Mar. 13, 1901	N.E. 12-12-20-2
Robert Moerike	Apr. 10, 1901	N.W. 12-12-20-2
Ewalt A. Moerike	Apr. 10, 1901	S.E. 14-12-20-2
John F. Thompson	Apr. 15, 1901	S.W. 36-12-20-2
Richard S. Anderson	Sept. 1, 1901	S.E. 4-12-19-2
Ernest Moerike	Nov. 29, 1901	S.W. 12-12-20-2
Horace Pain	Dec. 1, 1901	N.E. 16-12-18-2
A. W. Garratt	Dec. 1, 1901	N.E. 20-11-18-2
Reginald Downing	Dec. 23, 1901	N.W. 24-12-20-2

Other lists were obtained for the years 1902 to 1904 but were too lengthy for inclusion here.

MILESTONE TOWNSITE

Milestone is located on the South-East quarter of Section fifteen, Township twelve, Range nineteen, West of the Second Meridian. Soon after the railway was completed, the little townsite had been surveyed, and consisted of blocks one and two, with Coteau Street between them. This street was expected to become the Main Street of the Town. Railway Avenue which was also expected to be a business street, was surveyed south-eastward to the southern boundary of the townsite quarter. However, no lots were as yet available for purchase.

1900

The little group of C.P.R. employees, who until the spring of 1900 constituted the entire population of Milestone, rejoiced at the return of the homesteaders in the spring, with their cars of settlers effects. Real settlement was beginning in earnest and all that spring the scene was one of lively activity. The Carlson boarding house was taxed to the limit catering to the new arrivals. Mrs. Carlson made everybody welcome and did her utmost for the comfort of the new settlers.

About March 1st, 1900, the Dominion Government opened the Milestone Post Office in the station house, appointing Alfred Carlson as the first Postmaster, and his daughter, Jennie C. Carlson as his assistant. Miss Carlson took complete control, and while she labored under the serious handicap of having no English education, she rapidly learned the language and acquired a thorough knowledge of the Post Office routine, becoming an efficient and popular Postmistress.

FIRST BUSINESS MAN

The first business man to appear was John R. Bunn, who arrived in the fall of 1899. He was delighted with the district and the prospect for business. As the townsite was not yet on the market, he arranged with the C.P.R. for a temporary site south of the railway and near the station, on which he planned to establish a coal shed and a wood and lumber yard. All arrangements were made that fall and he returned early in the spring of 1900 to become the first business man in the community. Lumber, coal and wood were a prime necessity in a new community and his business flourished right from the start. It was strictly a cash business.

FIRST GENERAL STORE

In April, the first lot of the original townsite was sold to William Reid, although lots were not officially placed on the market until the spring of 1901. Mr. Reid, on his way west in the spring of 1900, called at the Winnipeg office of the C.P.R. and purchased Lot 1, Block 2. Arriving in Milestone early in April, he proceeded at once to erect the first general store. It was a two-storey frame building, the upper story being occupied as his residence.

Mr. Reid also secured the agency for the Cockshutt Plow Company and sold the first wagon out of Milestone to Lew Bratt. It was an Adams wagon, which complete with two deck box, spring seat, whippletrees and neck-yoke sold for the sum of seventy-five dollars. Mr. Reid was the second business man in the district.

FIRST CAR OF SETTLERS' EFFECTS

The first actual settler from outside to bring in a car of settler's effects was Robert M. Anderson, from Sintaluta. He arrived on April 1, 1900. During the month of April, other arrivals were W. H. Garratt, W. S. Cameron, Wm. Reid, Wm. Bradley, Thomas E. Perkins, T. A. Wallace, G. M. Perkins, David Barkwell, Ed. Forester, Duncan McLellan, Angus McLellan, James Ritchie and Sons, John McEachern, Andrew Todd, James Clarke, George Galbraith, Joseph Woods, Albert Ross, Angus Ross, A. L. Meek, Geo. Lyons and several others, nearly all bringing a car or two of settler's effects. They all hastened to get a little early breaking done in order to sow some oats for feed and to plant some potatoes. The potatoes were dropped into the furrow as the breaking was done, and the raw sod turned over on them.

Unfortunately the summer of 1900 was exceptionally dry. There had been no snow the previous winter, no moisture in the spring, and not a shower that would lay the dust until the ninth day of August. It was the most

trying year the Milestone pioneers ever experienced; and being the first one, many were rather discouraged. A prairie fire had swept the whole country the previous fall and no grass grew in the spring for stock to forage on. All feed had to be purchased and hauled long distances, and besides, it was extremely hard to get. The Moose Jaw Creek, their only source of water, went dry and the farmers had to dig shallow wells in the creek bottom which supplied barely sufficient water for their needs. This water had to be hauled in barrels; and when a farmer used an eight horse outfit and kept a cow or two, it occupied about one third of his time hauling enough water to satisfy the stock during that extremely hot summer.

The new settlers had been warned that they were coming into a desert country and they now began to realize that the "Dry Belt" story might be true. However, they all endeavored to break up as much sod as possible for crop the following year. Some of the settlers broke their land deep and disced it well to provide the necessary seed bed; others broke theirs shallow and backset it in the good old accepted Indian Head style. The deep breaking and discing proved the better plan for the Milestone land.

The long looked-for rain came on August 9th, a regular soaker. Immediately their little crops began to show up but they were too late to be of any benefit. However, the heavy rain put their breaking in good condition for crop the following year, and gave the settlers hope and confidence as they looked forward to the spring of 1901.

Some years before the Soo Line was constructed the Buck Lake district, about 12 miles north of Milestone had been settled by homesteaders who came in from Regina. Prominent among those homesteaders were Jesse Bratt and sons, Lew and Will, George McGillivray, John and Ed. Stretton, E. C. Jones and sons, Ed. Jones and T.

Carruthers. Although they suffered much from drought, for eight years they had raised some wheat; and as soon as the Soo Line was completed they shipped it from Milestone before an elevator or loading platform appeared. Even the dry year of 1900 yielded 10 bushels per acre on summerfallow. This record was a knock to the "Dry Belt" idea, and greatly encouraged the new settlers at Milestone.

The severe drought of 1900 left the district completely destitute of feed. The nearest location where hay could be obtained was at a large hay marsh near Charles Kessler's ranch about 30 miles south-west of Milestone. Here during the summer the new settlers congregated and co-operatively put up scores of tons of hay. The winter following proved to be exceptionally severe; and the hauling of that hay home to Milestone was an experience never to be forgotten. Sub-zero windy weather was common, almost constant, and the haulers were often caught in blinding blizzards. How they all managed to pull through that terrible winter without a tragedy is a mystery. At times Kessler's shack would be crowded for two or three days, the men waiting for the storm to cease so that they could take a chance on starting home. Mr. Kessler's kind hospitality was much appreciated by those early pioneers.

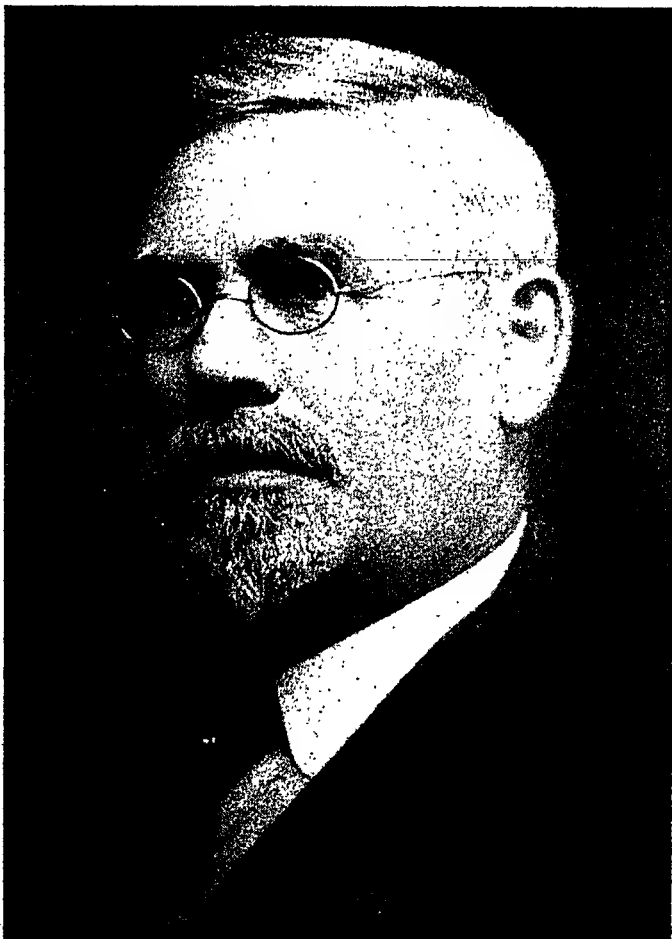
1901

The spring of 1901 arrived with an abundance of moisture, and by July 1st prospects were good for a fine crop on the limited acreage prepared by previous year. Over fifty homesteaders had filed on land at Milestone in 1900, and many of these were returning in the spring of 1901 with their families and cars or settlers' effects. This created considerable stir and new business for the village.

JOHN R. BUNN—FATHER OF THE TOWN

In the early development of any new town, there often emerges one man who might be called the "Father of the Town". In the case of Milestone that man was John R. Bunn. Besides his coal and lumber interests, he branched out into many other lines of business. He became the first implement agent in Milestone, having secured the agency for the Massey-Harris Implement Company. He sold the first seed drill to Arthur Rennick in the spring of 1900 and the first binder to Jesse Bratt in the fall of the same year. He was appointed sub-agent for Dominion Lands so that homestead entries could now be made at Milestone. He was agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway Land Department, for the Hudson Bay Company and for the Canadian North-West Land Company. He also represented a Winnipeg Grain Company. He was the first Justice of the Peace and the first Insurance and Loan Agent in the village. Later on, after Milestone became a town he served as Mayor for one year.

Mr. Bunn took a leading interest in every movement that had for its objective the development or betterment of the community. Early in 1901 he purchased from the C.P.R. an acre of land fronting on Railway Avenue, and about fifty rods east of the platted portion of the townsite. Here he erected the first good residence in the community,



JOHN R. BUNN
FATHER OF THE TOWN



which was finished in the fall, when his wife and family of six children, arrived to begin their residence in the new home.

Early in the spring of 1901 the Canadian Pacific Railway put the Milestone townsite on the market. Lots were in good demand, and were sold through Mr. Bunn, the local agent. Thomas A. Wallace who arrived on April 10th, was one of the first purchasers. He bought Lots 7 to 10, Block 2, and on the North-East end of Lots 9 and 10 he erected the first livery barn, size twenty-eight by forty-eight. The livery business being slack for the first few months, Mr. Wallace also became the first drayman in the community.

The next business to be established was the second general store. M. S. Fredenberg and Robert Lowery formed a partnership, and purchasing Lot 7, Block 2, they erected a one storey frame store about sixteen by twenty-four. Business was very poor in both stores until the settlers began to arrive in the spring of 1901.

The first settler from the United States to arrive at Milestone was E. A. Moerike. He was a mason by trade and came just in time to get the jobs of plastering Mr. Bunn's new house and the school house. For more than two years he did a large part of the plastering and chimney building in the community, and at the same time performed his homestead duties.

George Robinson, a homesteader, was the first carpenter to arrive. The first real contractors were George W. Lyons and Jack Lyster, both homesteaders and both first-class carpenters. Early in 1901 they formed a partnership and under the firme name of Lyons & Lyster, accepted the first two contracts let in Milestone, namely, the new school house and the residence of John R. Bunn. They, either as partners or individually, were prominent contractors for several years. In the mean time they were doing their homestead duties, driving back and

forth and sleeping on their homesteads. Mr. Lyons drove a pair of white ponies which he named Bessie and Jennie, in honor of the only two girls at that time in the village, Bessie Reid and Jennie Carlson.

During the year 1901 other settlers arrived who secured their land by applying Government "Scrip" originally purchased from Half-breeds. This Scrip could be obtained at the ridiculously low price of \$1.65 to \$2.00 per acre. In fact, in 1900, Scrip was actually offered by Mr. Bunn to the early settlers at \$1.65 per acre; but none was sold at that figure owing no doubt to lack of ready cash. Outsiders bought Scrip at Regina and elsewhere, coming to Milestone to place it. Still other settlers purchased land from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the Canadian North-West Land Company and the Hudson Bay Company at \$2.50 to \$3.00 per acre. Among those who, during 1900 and 1901 availed themselves of these low prices, were Robert J. Renwick, Wm. Renwick, Thos. E. Perkins, James Glenn, Thos. Foreman, Charles Downing, William B. Downing, Douglas Foreman, Angus J. Bradley, John Lamb, F. B. Wilkins, and many others.

SCHOOL DISTRICT ESTABLISHED

As the settlers began to arrive with children of school age, the necessity of a school presented itself. The Trustee board elected at the first school meeting was composed of A. Rennick, Walter H. England and R. M. Anderson. A. Rennick was appointed chairman and W. H. England, Secretary-Treasurer. On April 7, 1901 the Milestone School District No. 595 was duly established, and the Board proceeded at once to issue debentures and to make plans for a school building. A two acre plot was purchased from the C.P.R. fronting on Railway Avenue, immediately East of J. R. Bunn's residential property. A one room frame building eighteen by twenty-eight was decided upon and a contract let to Messrs. Lyons and Lyster. The school building was completed.

early in December and was ready for operation at the beginning of the new year.

It might be of interest to state that as soon as the school house was finished the Trustee board passed a resolution permitting the free use of the school for all community gatherings and religious services, and until a public hall and churches had been erected, the school was a real community centre.

FIRST ENTERTAINMENT

The first entertainment was held in the new school house just before Christmas, 1901. It was a community affair, and was handled by James Ritchie Jr. Considering the small population at that date, a very good crowd turned out and the Christmas program was very much enjoyed.

FIRST DEATH

The first death to be recorded in the new settlement was that of Mr. W. H. Garratt who died on July 10, 1901. As no provision had as yet been made for a cemetery, the citizens were suddenly brought to realize this urgent necessity. J. R. Bunn wired an application to the C.P.R. in Winnipeg for a plot of land for cemetery purposes, in the North-East corner of the Townsite quarter. The application was approved for one acre only, and there Mr. Garratt's remains were laid to rest. Rev. Mr. Squires of Yellow Grass conducted the funeral service.

A Cemetery Board of three Trustees, J. E. McEachern, James Ritchie and Robert M. Anderson, was appointed by the citizens. They were instructed to secure, if possible, a plot of at least three acres instead of one, but the C.P.R. refused their request. In September 1904, a transfer was received for one acre and in 1905 the plot was properly surveyed.

FIRST MARRIAGE

The first marriage to be solemnized at Milestone was that of Arthur Rennick and Miss Mary Coulter, on July 17, 1901. The ceremony took place at the home of the bride's father, Thos. Coulter, with Rev. Mr. Squires officiating. The bridesmaid was Miss Annie Coulter, the groomsmen, Jerry Queale.

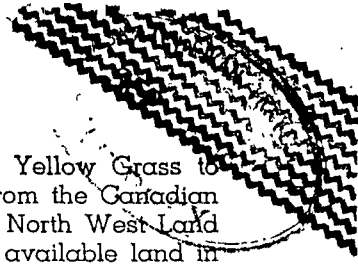
THE AMERICAN LAND BOOM

Just at the break of the century the first faint rumblings of a land boom were heard that was later to develop into one of the most remarkable agrarian movements in the history of the North West. The American Middle West had been enjoying a long period of agricultural prosperity. Much of that region had been settled during the tremendous movement across the Mississippi that had followed the American Civil War. The people on the land were prosperous and vast areas had gone into cultivation. The rural banks were bursting with money and prosperity was everywhere. So much cultivation had been done that there was little land available for the children of the original settlers, and they began to look afield for a new country to satisfy the inherent pioneering spirit of the American prairie people.*

A visit was made to the plains of Saskatchewan and a man named C. H. Davidson, a large dealer in farm lands from St. Paul, was attracted by the wide sweep of alluvial plains that lay along the Soo Line between Moose Jaw and the Souris River. He immediately organized the Canadian American Land Company Limited, the personnel of which was C. H. Davidson, J. E. Martin, T. L. Beiseker and Eugene Case, Manager.

During September and October of 1901, this new Company inspected nearly all the Soo Line territory

*The information in this paragraph has been supplied through the courtesy of Mr. Z. M. Hamilton, Secretary of the Sask. Historical Society.



North and South of the railway from Yellow Grass to Drinkwater. They finally purchased from the Canadian Pacific Railway and from the Canada North West Land Company, a large part of the suitable available land in the district, some 200,000 acres. The price ranged from \$2.50 to 3.00 per acre.

The slow-going Canadian homesteaders stood amazed at such a huge deal, figuring that it would put a serious crimp in their plans and their opportunities for development and progress. The cheap C.P.R. lands were all gone, and many of the early settlers were berating themselves for not having made an extra effort to get some of the cheap land, before this American octopus had moved in. However, they soon had reason to know that their fears were unfounded, and that this new land company would in reality prove to be a boon to the whole community.

The policy of the Canadian American Land Company was to sell all their holding at wholesale prices to smaller companies, who agreed to retail a large portion of it to actual settlers from the United States. The Harry E. Hopper Land Company and the Luse and Jones Land Company will be remembered in connection with that tremendous influx of land-seekers which began the following year .

The Milestone townsite quarter was a part of the land holdings acquired by the Canadian American Land Company and included all the unsold portion of the original two blocks platted by the C.P.R. Eugene Case was on the contract, but the townsite property was assigned to J. E. Martin; and while Mr. Martin was at Milestone in the fall of 1901, plans were made to alter and enlarge the townsite.

MILESTONE'S FIRST CROP

Had it not been for the serious damage done by wire worms, 1901 would have produced a bumper crop. Oats were excellent, running as high as one hundred bushels per acre; but the wheat yield was cut about fifty per cent by the wire worms. They continued to be a serious menace while the land was new, but almost disappeared as it was brought under summerfallow. The season of 1901 absolutely banished the "Dry Belt" bogey, and for 30 years the Milestone District knew practically nothing of crop failure.

That fall every settler had some wheat and oats to thresh and the entire crop in the whole community was threshed by one little outfit owned and operated by Albert and Angus Ross and William Bradley. They bought a second hand Sawyer-Massey 22" Separator and a portable engine. They had a long run, with many difficulties but with no profit to the operators. They scarcely collected sufficient money to pay their help; but they were real benefactors to the whole community.

The first car of wheat shipped that fall, actually grown at Milestone, was a co-operative affair. Nearly every farmer, after having retained his seed for the coming year, had some wheat for sale. It was all No. 1 Hard Red Fife and was sold at 65 cents per bushel, through John R. Bunn, who represented a Winnipeg Grain Company. There being as yet no grain elevator or loading platform, the wheat had to be loaded from the ground into a box car. Several farmers shipped together to get the carload price, and helped each other load. One old-timer states that a temporary platform was built of railway ties, almost to the level of the car floor, a two hundred and forty pound scale placed thereon, and the sacks of wheat lifted from the wagon to the scales, weighed and

emptied into the car. In those days all wheat was handled in sacks. Other wheat was shipped during the fall of 1901, most of it coming from Buck Lake District.

THE CHURCH

It should be noted here that the spiritual requirements of the early community were not being neglected. As early as 1895, Rev. Wm. Watson of the Anglican Church at Moose Jaw, made regular monthly visits to Milestone, holding religious services in the waiting room of the C.P.R. station. These services usually held on week nights, were appreciated, being well attended and well supported financially. Mr. Watson was followed in 1897 by Rev. G. P. Terry, of Estevan, who made fairly regular visits carrying on the Anglican work in this manner until the spring of 1902. Mr. Terry was a good mixer and as one of the section men remarked: "He was a fine fellow." From 1902 to 1905 the Anglican work was conducted by student missionaries from Toronto, two of them being Mr. Vance and Mr. Robert Wilkinson.

The Presbyterian church opened a mission at Milestone in the year 1899 with Rev. Mr. Smith, of Weyburn in charge. He aimed to alternate with the Anglican Missioner, holding his services also on week nights in the Station house. In 1900 the mission was conducted by the student missionary, Mr. Fraser, from Manitoba college; and in 1901 Rev. J. Squires handled the work in connection with his charge at Yellow Grass. In the summer of 1902 a Mr. Clark, another student missionary, a very able young man, conducted the Presbyterian mission at Milestone.

Those were the days of over-lapping; and in 1900 the Methodist church sent Mr. A. Galloway, a student from Wesley College, Winnipeg, to open a mission at Milestone. He was followed in 1901 by Mr. W. W. Shoup also a Wesley student, who extended the mission to

include the Buck Lake district. Mr. Shoup was a big man with a big heart and took well with the people. He arranged to hold all preaching services in William Reid's home.

A Union Sunday School was organized by R. M. Anderson and Thomas E. Perkins which was held in the waiting room of the C.P.R. station, and was carried on during the summers of 1900 and 1901. Mr. Perkins was the first superintendent and Mr. Anderson taught an adult bible class. The Sunday School appeared to be appreciated and was well attended.

1902

SCHOOL OPENS

The first important event to be recorded in the year 1902 was the opening of the Milestone School. A. W. Garratt was employed as the first teacher at a salary of \$450.00 per annum. The school opened on January 2nd with an attendance of 15 pupils which increased to 33 before the end of the year. At the first annual school meeting held in January, A. W. Garratt was appointed as Secretary-Treasurer of the school board. By holding this office for twenty-five consecutive years, Mr. Garratt probably established a record.

The most noticeable thing about the population of Milestone district in the early days, was the great scarcity of young women. In 1901 there were only four or five in the entire district. In 1902 a few others arrived from Ontario and the United States and one came all the way from London, England.

The first young woman to reach Milestone from across the waters should receive some special mention. This was Miss Frances D. Pickering who arrived in the autumn of 1902. She must have possessed considerable spirit of adventure to leave home, comfort and culture in London and come to Canada to try the rigors of pioneering life in those early years at Milestone. She began keeping house for her brother Hugh, who had started farming the previous spring. This arrangement, however, did not last long as it soon became apparent that there was a romance in the offing. It developed rapidly, and on March 11th, 1903, Miss Pickering was married to our genial friend and neighbor, Mr. Robert Rennick.

C.P.R. PREPARES FOR HEAVY TRAFFIC

The C.P.R. anticipating a heavy traffic through their Milestone depot in the spring of 1902, installed L. F. Fulmore as their first regular agent, a position which he retained for many years. Owing to his genial considerate manner in dealing with the public, Mr. Fulmore won for himself the high esteem of the entire community.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

The spring of 1902 was one of exceptional activity. New settlers were arriving every day. As their cars of effects were being unloaded, the congestion along the C.P.R. tracks was terrific. All kinds of shacks and shelters were in evidence for both the settlers and their stock. Business men came looking for sites to establish their various enterprises. It might be interesting to quote here a paragraph from a letter written later by one of Milestone's old timers, R. B. Jones. "I first saw Milestone in October 1901. The town consisted of Carlson, Fredenberg, Reid, Tom Wallace and John R. Bunn. Early in the spring of 1902 it began to grow and by fall was a nice little town."

One of the first buildings to be erected in 1902 was the Milestone Hotel, a frame building on Lot 15, Block 2. It was financed by the Hopper Land Company and was opened for business early in March. It was erected to provide accommodations for the land seekers who were expected during the coming summer. The upper story had a central partition running the full length of the building, with two rows of bunks on each side, providing the sleeping quarters for the numerous guests entertained there during the years 1902 and 1903. As many as 75 persons a night have been known to be put up at this hotel. "Hotel" was a very pretentious name for such a joint. The first manager was James Middleton who was followed in rapid succession by Steve Strickland, Arthur

Rennick, Fabricius Bros. and P. W. (Watt) Smith. Mr. Smith arrived on July 1st, 1903 and managed the hotel for a couple of years.

John Glenn, of Milestone and Joseph Glenn, of Indian Head, formed a partnership known as Glenn Brothers to conduct various lines of business. They erected a large warehouse on Coteau Street very early in the spring of 1902, putting in a full line of farm machinery, building hardware and harness. They established the second lumber yard and also handled coal and wood. Hugh Gordon was the general salesman while Steve Strickland had the supervision of the office and warehouse.

Mr. Gordon and Mr. Strickland, reportedly with matrimony in view, erected two nice residences on Coteau Street which were the second and third strictly residential buildings in the village.

The Massey-Harris Company also erected a warehouse on Coteau Street early in March 1902 and stocked a full line of Massey-Harris implements, so popular with the farmers in those early days. J. R. Bunn was the first Agent.

NEW ANNEX TO TOWNSITE

J. E. Martin, the new Townsite owner, proceeded early in the spring of 1902 with the survey of an addition to the townsite of six new blocks, numbering them 3 to 8. The idea of Coteau Street becoming the main street was discarded, and a new Main Street one block east of Coteau, was laid out directly North-East of the C.P.R. depot, and 100 feet wide. All other streets and avenues in both the old and new surveys were 66 feet wide.

Mr. Martin purchased and enlarged the townsite because he believed that, situated in such an excellent farming district, Milestone would become a large and important town. He also believed that in order to ensure

symmetry and beauty for the future town, it must not be allowed to grow in a haphazard manner, but to develop according to a definite plan.

Town planning at the time was very much to the fore in many parts of the country and especially in the United States, where new areas were being settled. It was a popular move and Mr. Martin came to Milestone enthused with the idea. He immediately made it known that Milestone was to become a "planned town" and he no doubt believed that the early citizens would heartily cooperate with him.

A few details of his plan might be noted. The residential district was to develop toward the West and North. Block 5, which contained very desirable residential lots was reserved. Certain building restrictions were attached to certain lots. All business houses were to be located, as far as possible, on Main Street. The plan also covered the future location of public buildings, parks, etc.

As mentioned before, William Reid, the Massey-Harris Company, and Glenn Brothers had all erected business buildings on Coteau Street. Mr. Martin induced these firms to move their buildings by offering them their choice of lots on Main Street in lieu, of the properties vacated, and agreeing to pay all the costs of moving. His offer was promptly accepted and during the summer of 1902, these three buildings were moved to new locations on Main Street, business going on as usual, while moving operations proceeded. This gesture on the part of Mr. Martin, proved beyond a doubt, that he was extremely anxious to see Milestone develop according to his plan; and that he was willing to do his part, even at considerable cost to himself.

It was soon apparent, however, that the citizens were not taking kindly to Mr. Martin's planned townsite scheme. Some prospective purchasers applied for lots or acreage

for purposes and in locations not according to plan and were turned down, while others could not or did not wish to fulfill the conditions of the building restrictions on certain required lots. Just at this time the village requested Mr. Martin to extend Railway Avenue North Westward to connect with the graded road on the west side of the Townsite section. This extension was an urgent necessity and the village was willing to do the grading. However, the request was refused and friction rapidly developed between the early citizens and the townsite owner, which increased with the years that followed.

NEW ENTERPRISES

As the spring activity increased, T. A. Wallace became the busiest man in the community. He soon realized that the modest little livery barn he had erected in 1901 was absolutely inadequate to handle the business that was looming in sight. J. R. Bunn, an active land agent, urged him to increase his livery accommodations and equipment, to be able to cope with the rush of American land-seekers in prospect for that summer and fall. About mid-summer, Mr. Wallace went into partnership with Charles N. Wellman and under the firm name of Wallace & Wellman, plans were made at once for a new livery barn, size 28x120. Only the first story was completed in 1902, hay and straw being used for a covering. The second story and roof were added in 1903. Additional horses and vehicles were added to the equipment and when the land-seekers began to arrive in August, Wallace & Wellman were fairly well prepared to handle the rush.

Ludwig Monson was the first blacksmith in the community. He had his shop south of the tracks and did a little work in 1901; but early in the spring of 1902 he went to his homestead. In the spring of 1902 Jack Richards and J. J. Griffith each opened a small blacksmith shop

on Coteau Street. When T. A. Wallace decided to build a new livery barn, J. J. Griffith bought the former barn and after considerable remodelling Mr. Griffith opened, early in 1903, an up-to-date well equipped blacksmith shop which was much needed in the community.

In April 1902, A. E. Jones, having purchased Lot 2, Block 7, established thereon the first hardware store and tin shop in the village. He put in a \$2,000.00 stock of sheet and heavy hardware and installed in his tin shop a full line of up-to-date equipment. Soon after he opened his business he sold the first range, a Monarch, to W. S. Cameron, of Milestone. Mr. Jones was destined to remain in business, at the same old stand, many years after all his contemporaries of those early days had faded from the picture. Through the early years of development he was always ready to take his place wherever responsible men were required. He served for years on the Town Council and was Chairman of the School Board for several terms.

Early in April, 1902, John R. Bunn purchased the first lots sold off the newly surveyed portion of the Townsite, these being Lots 24 to 31, Block 3, all fronting on Main Street. He erected a new office and transferred his lumber and wood yard from across the track to the new location. His business at this date had become so varied and extensive, it was necessary to employ an assistant.

Here is a convenient place to introduce Horace Pain. He arrived in Milestone early in the spring of 1902, intending to establish a hardware business; but finding that A. E. Jones had already begun the erection of a hardware store, he decided to postpone entering into business for himself, and accepted an offer from Mr. Bunn to handle his Massey-Harris Agency, and his lumber, wood and coal yards. Mr. Pain figured he was taking a large contract, but he handled it all with marked

efficiency, and he is remembered as an exceptionally bright and capable businessman, very popular with the public.

Alfred Carlson who had resided in the C.P.R. station house since 1896, was forced to vacate when Mr. Fulmore, the new station agent arrived in the spring of 1902. He bought Lots 1 to 3 in Block 3, and near the corner of Main Street and Railway Avenue he erected a two story building suitably arranged for his residence and the Post Office. Anticipating a heavy postal business, he installed a larger number of post office boxes and other equipment which gave Milestone an up-to-date Post Office.

In 1902 Mr. Carlson purchased the homestead of John Barmby which adjoined the Townsite. In 1903 he quit the C.P.R. and devoted all his time to farming and organizing a dairy business for the town. Since that time, two generations of Milestonites have been reared on Carlson's milk.

In the Spring of 1902, A. McManus bought from Mr. Carlson, the North-East 34 feet of Lots 1 and 2 and established the first restaurant in the village. It included a tobacco and confectionery counter. He was assisted by his son Homer and his daughter, Mrs. Collier. This restaurant was very much needed at the time, as people were arriving in great numbers and Hotel Milestone was hopelessly inadequate from this point of view. Also early the same spring, Joseph C. Morrison established a boarding house which was a great boon to the homeless people arriving in Milestone. Later on Mr. Morrison became village overseer for a time, and when Milestone was incorporated as a Town he was one of the first councillors elected.

Following Mr. Bunn, the next Real Estate Agent was Charles (Captain) Benjafield, who arrived early in the

spring of 1902. He purchased Lots 7 to 10 in Block 3 and erected a two story frame building. The upper story was known as "Benjafield's Hall", the first public hall in town. The lower story was occupied as a Real Estate office, flour and feed store, and implement warehouse. Mr. Benjafield negotiated a few land sales, but most of his time was occupied in locating homesteaders. His son, Walter Benjafield, joined him in the spring of 1903.

The first pool room to appear was erected by Jack Rodgers in the spring of 1902 and was located on Railway Avenue, just west of Benjafield's Hall. His building was small, accommodating only one snooker and one ordinary pool table which, although they were kept busy, were not sufficient to create a very profitable business.

The first dealer in meat was Hugh Townsend. He homesteaded south of the town, did his butchering at the farm and delivered his meat to town in a democrat or wagon. His retail establishment was a small shack on Prairie Avenue, west of Main Street. Lacking ice and the necessary equipment for handling fresh meat in hot weather, he soon decided to abandon the business.

Mr. Townsend was an experienced broncho buster and for several years there was a rodeo performance going on at Townsend's corral nearly every day. He was quick to see, in the development of the Milestone farm lands, a potential horse market. He had ridden the ranges for years and knew where the right stamp of bronchos could be obtained. He herded them into Milestone and partially broke them before selling to the farmers. Some were hard to handle, but breaking this heavy clay land soon took the "bronc" out of them, and most of them became excellent farm horses. His prices were reasonable in comparison with the prices of Ontario horses, and he soon developed an extensive and profitable trade.

Mr. Townsend helped to organize the first curling club and the first football club. He was an enthusiastic curler and he became manager of the first football team. Later, when Milestone became a town he was elected a member of the first council, on which he served three terms. He was also the second Justice of the Peace appointed in Milestone.

A. Hatlen, another homesteader south of town took up the butcher business when Mr. Townsend retired. He fitted up a small shop a little east of the Post Office. At this time, with such an influx of people, that butcher shop was of prime importance to the community. He developed a fairly good business, but again, the lack of proper refrigeration facilities was such a handicap, that about one year was all he wanted of it. He retired to his homestead and farmed for a few years. Later he returned to Milestone, established a fine home and became a very useful and respected citizen. He served on the Town Council for two terms, and was also a member of the Milestone School Board for several years.

During this same spring, three additional building contractors arrived. They were George Dean, N. J. Sonders and a little later, Thomas Luxford. William Ames, Ralph Grant, S. Strickland, G. T. Tice and Andrew Todd also worked at the carpenter trade when building operations were at their height.

Mr. Todd built a nice little residence in town and became one of the busy carpenters until 1905, when he moved to Lang, Sask. Mr. and Mrs. Todd took an active interest in the early organizations of the Methodist church.

THE FIRST DOCTOR

The first medical man to appear was Dr. Miles La-Claire, who arrived early in the spring of 1902. There being as yet no druggist, the doctor for the first year had to dispense his own drugs. His arrival was a fortunate

thing for the community, as during the coming fall and winter there occurred a rather serious outbreak of small-pox. About a dozen cases in all were reported. There were no deaths.

Dr. LaClaire carried on his practice until the fall of 1904, when on the arrival of Dr. M. Cook, he was compelled to cease practicing owing to the fact that he held no medical license. The doctor was an excellent bass singer and was always ready to help in any local entertainments or church services, where special music was being rendered.

The first barber pole appeared in September 1902, in front of the premises of Joseph Harvey, who was located on Railway Avenue, between the Post Office and Benjafield's Hall. Mr. Harvey was a jovial fellow and took a lively interest in community affairs. After village incorporation in 1903, he was elected to the responsible position of Village Overseer.

Up to this date, T. A. Wallace had handled all the local draying in connection with his livery but early in 1902 J. J. McDonough established another draying business. Dick Driscoll followed a little later on with still another dray line. However, they were all busy, as dozens of carloads of farm implements, lumber and store goods began to arrive. The following spring saw Richard England and Bill Nash also in the draying business.

Robert M. Anderson and Richard A. Andersan, both homesteaders, formed a partnership known as "Anderson Brothers" for the purpose of entering the mercantile business. On June 26, 1902, they purchased a site on the corner of Main Street and Prairie Avenue, and began immediately the erection of a frame store building, two stories high, the upper story being nicely fitted up as a residence. They put in a fairly heavy stock of groceries, dry goods, boots and shoes, gents' furnishings, ladies'

wares, etc., and were ready for business before the end of the year. A. W. Garratt resigned as teacher of the Milestone School and accepted a position with Anderson Brothers as general clerk and bookkeeper, duties beginning January 1, 1903.

Robert Anderson took an active interest in town development. He was a member of the first School Board, was a leader in securing village organization and was closely connected with any movement for village advancement. He was right at home behind the pulpit, being a very acceptable supply when the regular pastor was absent. He was also an enthusiastic curler, the only sport he cared for.

Richard Anderson was also very energetic in town affairs. He was the "spark plug" of the Board of Trade and was the first President. He coined the slogan, "There is nothing too good for Milestone". J. J. Currie defeated him by a small margin in the first Mayoralty contest in 1906; but Mr. Anderson became Mayor in 1908. In 1902 and 1903 he was the regular pastor of the Methodist Church and supervised the erection of the new church and parsonage. His pastorate was very satisfactory in every way.

A. E. Eastman arrived early in the fall seeking a location for a furniture store. He bought Lots 2 and 3 in Block 2 and on Lot 2 he erected the usual sized building 24x40, two stories high, providing for a store below and residence above. He stocked a fine line of furniture, in fact more fancy than staple, which he soon found did not suit the requirements of the pioneer settler. His business being somewhat disappointing, he decided to add an implement business. On Lot 3 he erected a similar sized building as an addition to the first one, the lower story for an implement warehouse, the upper for any purpose that later might present itself.

Another line of business urgently required in the community was a harness shop. Fred Butt, a homesteader, and a harness maker by trade, grasping the opportunity, opened a small shop early in the year. He put in a good line of light and heavy harness and saddlery. Mr. Butt was a good workman and was soon doing a satisfactory business. In the fall of 1904 he pushed the small shop to the rear and erected a two story building, finishing the upper story as his residence. Mr. Butt took a great interest in sports, especially horse racing. In 1907 he helped to organize and bought shares in the Turf Club. He owned one of the first racing horses in the community.

The Winnipeg Elevator, located a little east of the depot, was the first to be erected at Milestone. It was finished in the fall of 1902 and handled the major portion of the grain raised in the district that year. The first elevator agent was Mr. Creighton, followed in 1903 by A. M. DeLong of Indian Head.

FIRST SPORTS DAY

The first sports day was held on July 12th, 1902. R. B. Jones, Hugh Townsend, Hugh Gordon, C. N. Wellman, S. Strickland, and A. W. Garratt were appointed a committee to arrange and handle the sports, which consisted of scratch games of baseball and football, horse races for both men and ladies, also a line of general and novelty foot races for both adults and children. All events were keenly contested, but the main interest was centered in the ladies' horse race. Some one tried a little jockeying and the race had to be run the second time. Tempers were slightly stirred in some of the fair contestants.

Considerable amusement was created by a matched wheelbarrow race between Del Tice and Charles Kessler. The course lay down Main Street from Anderson's store to the Post Office through six inches of mud. The stakes, if any, went to Kessler. The sports ended with a dance

at night in Benjafield's Hall. The day was fine, there was a large attendance and all appeared to be well satisfied with Milestone's first celebration.

AMERICAN INVASION

The anticipated rush of American land seekers began about July 15th. The Harry E. Hopper Land Company with headquarters at Indianola, Iowa, had purchased, at a reasonable wholesale price, much of the holdings of the Canadian American Land Company in the Milestone district. A publicity campaign was launched at Indianola and agents appointed at various points throughout the State, to drum up prospective land buyers who wished to go to Canada as actual settlers. A railway coach was chartered for each trip to Milestone, and extra low travelling rates were obtained from the railways interested. It was arranged that each week's group of prospects should congregate at Indianola, on a specified date, for the land seekers weekly excursion to Canada, scheduled to take about six days for the trip to Milestone and return. Harry E. Hopper was the real business head of the company. He was a reliable, fine spirited gentleman and inspired confidence in those he dealt with. There was, however, always with the group, another member of the company, J. Bartholomew, a man of an entirely different type. He was a jovial, windy sort of fellow whose main business was to keep the crowd in good spirits; and while at Milestone, to herd the gang away from any real estate agents in the village, who always had their hooks out angling for the strays. However, Bartholomew watched them closely and only an odd prospect got away from him.

The Hopper Land Company operated in this manner for four years; and during that time brought in a great number of good settlers, locating them on lands lying open among the early Canadian homesteaders. This



was an excellent thing for the whole district, mixing the nationalities and producing a more compact settlement. These new American settlers became some of the very best citizens of the community.

Among those who came in 1902 or 1903 either with land companies or individually, might be mentioned: H. W. Underwood, H. J. Ohrt, Bernard Larson, E. A. Schiefner, Frank Schiefner, J. J. Courtney, M. A. Nicholas, V. C. Thomas, W. J. Rodgers, John Feltis, John Jacobs, Carl August and Frank Nicholson, Roy Elder, E. P. Kuhns, D. B. English, Mr. Anderson, W. Pedersen, Pete Petersen, Chris Hendrickson, John Lekivetz, Peter Martin, Ed. Martin, Harry and Ross Cottingham, W. A. Houghtaling, Art McLaughlin, H. E. Hadfield and many others.

Showing the land to the successive groups of prospective buyers who arrived in 1902 entailed a tremendous amount of driving, and taxed the resources of the livery men, Wallace and Wellman, to the very limit. At times, the traffic was so great that they had almost to commandeer every available horse and rig in the community to handle the rush. The homesteaders were glad of the opportunity to make a few odd dollars, and came with their democrats or their wagons, provided with spring seats, to assist in handling the crowds. The Milestone land was hummocky, the mosquitoes were terrible, and the poor land seekers would return in the evening, thoroughly punctured by mosquitoes and exhausted by their rough ride. However, they liked the land, were pleased, even astonished at some of the crops they saw growing on the farms of the homesteaders, and the great majority bought land on their first trip to Canada.

Land in Iowa at this time was selling at \$75.00 to \$100.00 per acre; while this beautiful prairie land, dark clay loam six feet deep, was being quoted to them at \$8.00 to \$12.00 per acre. It was astonishing, almost too good to be true, and many of them bought all they could handle.

It might be noted in passing that the whole set-up was a bonanza for the promoters and the local livery men, and a good thing for the whole community. Each trip left a lot of new money in the village.

As stated before there was an excellent crop grown in 1902. The farmers did not have to depend on the little threshing outfit of 1901. A large steam tractor outfit was in the field, owned and operated by William R. Perkins. Mr. Perkins enjoyed a heavy run and was able to collect most of his thresh bills.

BOX SOCIAL

The only entertainment of any kind to be staged at Milestone during 1902 was a box social held in the school house in December. It was a very successful affair and some of the old timers will remember the fancy prices paid for boxes. At that early date the Milestone community was infested with bachelors; and since very few young ladies had as yet appeared, the lovely boxes prepared by those few were eagerly sought after. That box social started ideas which had interesting results a little later on.

FIRST FRATERNAL SOCIETY

A local lodge or court of Independent Order of Foresters was the first fraternal society to be organized in Milestone. Mr. Jno. R. Bunn, Wm. Reid, Arthur Rennick, Walter H. England, Chas. Downing, Richard England, Chas. N. Wellman and John McEachern, all new citizens of Milestone, were members in good standing of other Courts of the Order in various parts of Canada. In response to the urge of Mr. Bunn and Wm. Reid, a survey of the village was made when fourteen other prospective new members were found.

An organizer from Moose Jaw visited Milestone, and on July 9th 1902, Milestone Court No. 4129 of the Indepen-

dent Order of Foresters was duly organized with several charter members. Meetings were to be held monthly in the little butcher shop of Mr. Hugh Townsend until better quarters could be secured.

The attractive feature of the Order was the low rates assessed for life insurance; and for sick and funeral benefits. The Court grew and prospered for about four years when the Head Office began raising the rates. This had a disastrous effect. The members considered the rates were becoming too high and would probably go higher. The membership began to dwindle rapidly until, on Nov. 29th, 1907, the last meeting of the Court was held with only six in attendance. There are no records whatever after that date.

THE CHURCH

Both the Presbyterian and Methodist churches took a step forward in 1902. Up to this time they had both been served by student missionaries, who held services only during the summer months, and were financed principally by funds from the Mission Boards. In the summer of 1902 both congregations decided it was time to become self-supporting.

The Presbyterian church made the first move. A trustee Board was appointed, and on July 6th they purchased Lots 1 and 2, in Block 6, and proceeded at once to erect a church which was completed and dedicated early in 1903. The personnel of the first Trustee Board was John D. McEachern, James Ritchie, Arthur Rennick and James D. Ritchie. Rev. Frank McKean arrived from the United States early in 1903 to take over the pastorate of the new church. His family joined him in the fall and he thus became the first resident, ordained minister in Milestone. He was followed in 1905 by Rev. Wm. Flemming who immediately took steps to arrange for the building of a manse. This was completed and

occupied by Mr. Flemming in September. Other early Presbyterian Ministers were, Rev. D. McKean Read, and Rev. J. I. Manthorn.

R. S. Anderson, of the firm of Anderson Brothers, became the regular pastor of the Methodist Congregation from Sept. 1st, 1901 to July 1st, 1903, assisted for a few months by Rev. Geo. W. T. Laverack. Although entering business life about the same time, Mr. Anderson gave splendid satisfaction as pastor. He had been urging the Methodist congregation to become self supporting and to build a church. Early in 1903 a congregational meeting was called when the following members were appointed to the first Trustee Board: Thos. E. Perkins, William Reid, Wm. Ames, Henry Bailly, John Glenn, R. M. Anderson and A. W. Garratt. Immediately a building program was decided upon, Lots 1 and 2, Block 8, were purchased and a church erected in the fall of 1903. It was finished during the winter of 1904 and opened for services early in the spring. During 1904 a parsonage was erected and was ready for occupancy about March 1st, 1905. Rev. W. W. Wagg became the first ordained pastor of the Methodist church beginning July 1st, 1903. Other early Methodist pastors were Rev. J. C. Wilson, Rev. J. H. Kinley and Rev. Charles McIntyre.

1903

The winter of 1902-3 was comparatively mild, and spring came with the soil almost as dry as in the spring of 1900. In fact, a number of farmers remembering the conditions in 1900, hesitated to sow their seed until there were some signs of moisture. However, on May 21st, the heavens opened and rain fell spasmodically for three days. The ground became so wet that farmers could not touch their fields for a week. Those who got their seed in before this rain had a heavy crop of good quality, while those who hesitated found themselves with frozen crops in the fall.

AMERICAN SETTLERS

The spring of 1903 opened with the arrival of a great number of new settlers, the majority being from the United States. This was the direct results of the policy and efforts of the Hopper Land Company during the previous year. The many home seekers to whom Milestone land had been sold in 1902, were now returning with their families and their equipment to become actual settlers. They brought with them considerable money, which was soon in circulation with marked effect on business generally. The increased land values, together with this extra money in circulation soon gave real strength to the financial and credit standing of the whole community.

FIRST FIRE

The first fire in the village occurred about February 1st, 1903, in the pool room owned by Jack Rogers. The building and contents were a complete loss but were fully covered by insurance. Soon afterwards Mr. Rogers erected a small residence on the same site.

This little fire had one good effect. It made the citizens fire conscious; and immediately thereafter a fire brigade was organized. R. B. Jones was the first fire chief and John Spiller, his assistant.

VILLAGE ORGANIZATION

During the summer of 1902, building operations had been proceeding with such feverish haste that apparently very little thought had been given to village organization. Certain public works, such as street grading, sidewalks and crossings were urgently needed. On November 25th, a meeting of citizens was held to discuss the matter. An application was made to the Government for incorporation as a village. On March 14th, 1903, by an Order-in-Council, approved by His Honor A. E. Forget, the Lieutenant Governor, Milestone was duly established as a Village. The same order provided that the village should comprise all of Section Fifteen (15), Township twelve (12), Range nineteen (19), West of the Second Meridian.

Under the Village Ordinance of 1900, the entire local government was vested in an Overseer who was elected annually. At the first election held on March 25, 1903, Douglas D. Badham was elected by acclamation as the first Overseer of the village. Mr. Badham resigned in July, when Joseph Harvey was elected, again by acclamation, as Overseer. As some serious infractions of the law had been occurring in the village, the Overseer immediately appointed John J. McDonough as the first constable.

Immediately after village organization was completed, the Overseer called a public meeting, at which the question of taxation came up for lengthy and heated discussion. A group headed by J. R. Bunn were strongly in favor of an assessment on the single tax basis; that is a levy on land or lots only. Mr. Bunn had been a close student and admirer of Henry George, the great American exponent of the single tax system. He argued that any system of taxation that would encourage the erection of good buildings in any new growing town

was right in principle. The only question in his mind was, whether or not it would yield sufficient revenue.

A minority group were in favor of a double tax system, which meant a levy on all real estate and the improvements thereon. They held that this system would be more equitable to all ratepayers, and at a low mill rate would yield sufficient revenue for all purposes.

As a result of this meeting a petition dated April 11th, 1903, signed by twenty-four prominent citizens and business men was forwarded to the Municipal Commissioner praying that authority be given to assess for revenue purposes, the actual value of all land in the village, exclusive of improvements. The petition was granted, thus instituting for Milestone what is known as the "Single tax system". It was to go into operation for the year 1904.

Mr. Martin, who still owned a large part of the land in the townsite, saw at once that the adoption of such a system was placing upon his shoulders the major portion of the tax burden. He was convinced that the whole scheme was aimed at him to force him to abandon his idea of a planned town or to sell it out at any price. His conjecture was correct. That was apparently what the signers on the petition really wanted—to make his tax burden so heavy that he would be glad to change his policy to fit in with the wishes of the people. The citizens had chosen Milestone for their home, and as a suitable place to make a livelihood; and they were convinced of their own ability to develop the town in a proper manner. They loved the spirit of freedom of the West and would not tolerate an outsider coming in and dictating to them.

The Single tax system was continued for three years, failing each year to produce sufficient revenue to finance the village. Mr. Martin appealed his assessment each year but got little redress. He paid during the years

1904 to 1906 over 50% of the total tax levy, which was extremely inequitable. This lack of co-operation between the citizens and the townsite owner proved to be detrimental to the development and best interests of the village.

NEW ENTERPRISES.

In the spring of 1903, with population increasing so rapidly, there was nothing more urgently required in the village than a good butcher shop. Charles Kessler was the man of the hour. He erected a suitable building, installed ice refrigeration, and about August 1st, opened a well equipped meat market. Mr. Kessler was a jovial sort of chap and took well with the public. His business was a success right from the start and was certainly a great boon to the community.

Another tradesman to arrive in 1903 was John Longbottom, a mason, painter and house decorator. He, with the assistance of his son Ambrose, who arrived shortly afterwards, handled many of the best jobs of chimney building, plastering and house decorating in the rapidly growing community.

Also this same spring, Horace Pain decided to proceed with his hardware store. He erected a building on Lot 24, Block 3, put in a good stock of shelf and heavy hardware and later on added a tinshop. Mr. Pain still handled the lumber yard for J. R. Bunn but he personally took over the Massey Harris agency.

T. C. Sullivan was the first druggist to appear. He arrived in the summer of 1903 and rented a small building from A. Carlson, just north of the Post Office. Mr. Sullivan stocked the usual line of staple drugs, tobaccos, confectionery and novelties, and his dispensary was a great help to Dr. LeClaire who had arrived the previous year. Since the drug store is such a necessity to any community, Mr. Sullivan was a very welcome addition to the business.

fraternity of the village. He took a real interest in sports, especially curling, football and lacrosse.

Another good citizen who arrived about mid-summer, was J. J. Currie. He hailed from Indian Head, Saskatchewan, where he had been principal of the town school. He purchased a site between William Reid's store and the hotel, and erected a two story frame building, using the upper story as a residence. He put in a stock of good staple-furniture and added an Undertaking Department. He secured the agencies for several loan and insurance companies and became the first Notary Public in the village. Mr. Currie was a man of originality and wit, was a pleasing speaker and made a first class chairman at any gathering. He later became the first Mayor of Milestone and Chairman of the School Board for several years.

Mrs. Currie, who had been a teacher before coming to Milestone, was deeply interested in education. She became a member of the School Board and as Chairman for two years, exhibited marked executive ability.

Two grain elevators were erected during the summer, the International and the North Star. John H. Spiller was the first agent of the International elevator, holding the position continuously for over twenty years. Paul O. Aarnes was the first agent in the North Star elevator, later resigning to enter the implement business with J. R. McKenzie.

RURAL

Bernard Larson, arriving in 1902, broke up one hundred acres that spring and sowed it to flax, which yielded ten bushels per acre, and was the first flax raised in the community. He also prepared a large acreage for flax for the spring of 1903. He, and other Americans from the Dakotas, taught the Canadian farmer the value of flax as a farm crop on this heavy clay land. Consider

able flax was produced in 1903, and every farmer soon realized that it was the most valuable first crop he could raise. Good flax crops in the early days, ranged from ten to twenty bushels per acre, and the price per bushel was usually twenty-five to one hundred percent higher than the price of wheat. It occasionally sold for two dollars per bushel and has been known to reach as high as six dollars per bushel. The production of flax contributed much to the early prosperity of the Milestone district.

C.P.R. DAM

When settlement began at Milestone, and railway traffic was becoming heavy, the C.P.R. found it necessary to secure a suitable water supply as near the village as possible. It was 2 miles south to Moose Jaw Creek. They built a dam across the creek on the road allowance between sections 8 and 9 in the fall of 1902. During the winter of 1902-3 they laid a pipe line from the village to the new dam. They purchased from Wm. Bradley one acre of land on which they built their power house and installed a steam pumping engine. The water tank, which for years had stood idle on the corner of Mr. Joseph Woods' homestead about four miles N.W. of town was torn down and erected at Milestone. The pipe line was connected up ready for the spring freshet. Unfortunately, the dam was built too high and the water backed up, flooding too much of the adjacent land. Then trouble began. The company was forced to tear out this dam and build another farther down the stream on land acquired from Wm. Bradley. The second dam was also built too high and after paying some rather heavy indemnities to farmers along the creek whose lands were flooded, the company decided to lower the second dam one foot. Then they were short of water. The next move was to bring in a large steam shovel and dig reservoirs in the creek bottom. These were enlarged and improved later on. This secured a fairly good supply of water,

which being entirely free from alkali, proved to be extra good for the locomotive boilers. With their original outlay, the alterations and improvements and the indemnities paid, that water supply was a costly thing for the C.P.R., but incidently became a great boon to the whole community.

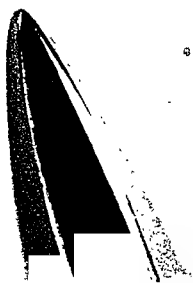
SPORTS

Hugh Townsend was instrumental in getting football organized in the spring of 1903, and became the first manager and captain of the team. The principal football enthusiasts at that time were: Hugh Townsend, J. J. Griffith, Charlie Munroe, Charlie Wellman, Percy Reid, T. C. Sullivan, Am. Longbottom, Ralph Grant, Phil Tanton, Frank Brown, Walter and Allen Perkins, Harry Baldock, A. L. Meek and other farm boys of the district. Doc. Cook and Doc. Coleman joined them soon after. During 1903, and the years following, they frequently clashed with Rouleau, Weyburn, and Yellow Grass and always gave a good account of themselves.

The first Curling Club was organized about December 1st, 1903, with J. H. Spiller as the first president and R. B. Jones as Secretary-Treasurer. The first necessity was a suitable rink. Two enterprising young homesteaders, Wm. G. Townsley and Wm. Cripps, approached the Club with a proposition to build the rink and operate it as a private enterprise. Their proposition was accepted at once. The boys rented the lumber from the two lumber yards at \$2 per thousand with the understanding that in the spring any damaged lumber be paid for at the regular market price.

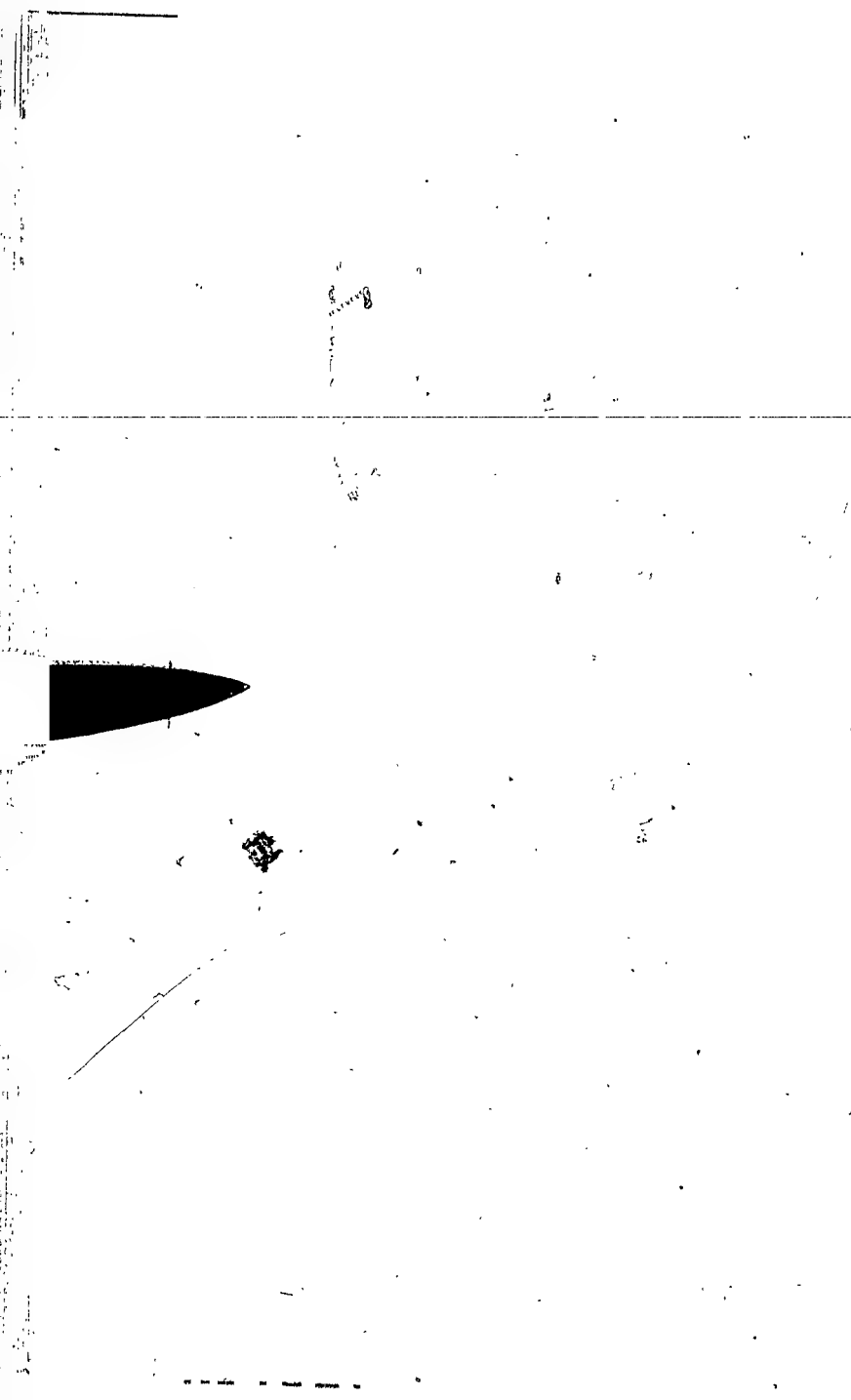
The rink was located in the middle of Main Street about 250 feet north of Prairie Avenue and was ready for service a little before Christmas.

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MILESTONE. 1903



Two sheets of curling ice was provided in the centre, with a strip about eighteen feet wide for skating, running all around the curling sheets. This plan worked well.

In January Mr. Cripps retired from the partnership and Mr. Townsley carried on alone. It was a paying proposition until about March 1st when a terrible six day blizzard partially wrecked the rink and almost filled it with snow. This had to be all drawn out in sleighs and the building repaired. Following this Mr. Townsley knew he was operating at a loss but he was honorable enough to carry on, keeping good ice until nearly the end of April.

After the first year the Curling Club built and operated the rink, either following Mr. Townsley's plan or buying the lumber outright, selling it in the spring at a small reduction to the incoming settlers. For four winters the rink was located in the same place on Main Street and torn down each spring. It might be interesting to record the names of some of the more ardent curlers of this club. They are as follows: H. Pain, J. J. Griffith, R. B. Jones, J. H. Spiller, R. M. Anderson, John Glenn, E. Howson, Percy Reid, Dr. LeClaire, T. C. Sullivan, Hugh Townsend, T. Westover, F. Brown, Paul Aarnes, William G. Townsley, A. E. Eastman.

1904

SPORTS CONTINUED

The rink became the amusement centre of the village during the winter of 1903-4. Everybody skated, at least all who did not curl and many who did. One of the finest carnivals ever held in Milestone was staged on New Year's night 1904. Nearly one hundred costumes were on the ice representing almost everything one could imagine. Britannia was there, a perfect costume, worn by Miss Evelyn Cameron. There were other beautiful and costly costumes representing historical celebrities and literary characters. There were comic costumes and clowns galore. A fierce sea pirate, out of his native element, raged around striking fear into the hearts of the timid. Even the devil was there. A prominent citizen represented Mephistopheles and with a few odd drinks under his costume, he surely tried to do ample justice to his characterization. Several of the better costumes showed the planning and the finishing touches of Milestone's clever make-up artist, Arthur Townsend. When Arthur finished with a costume, it was usually headed straight for a prize.

Two rinks of Milestone curlers attended the Regina bonspiel held in anuary 1904; and brought back the "Davin Cup". The rinks were as follows: Frank Brown, T. C. Sullivan, Dr. M. LeClaire and Horace Pain, skip; and William Townsley, Everett Houston, Percy Reid and J. J. Griffith, skip. The village was very proud of their curlers for bringing home the mug.

Baseball was organized in the spring of 1904 with R. B. Jones as the first manager of the team. They attended the Weyburn Sports Meet on July 1st, meeting a doughty Weyburn team. Milestone, lacking a catcher that day, secured the services of Walter Symington of Moose Jaw, who was a conductor on a Soo Line freight train. Sym-

ington held up his train at Weyburn for two hours, and handled the job behind the bat very satisfactorily for Milestone, winning the game by a small margin.

Milestone staged a big sports day on August 10th, 1904, when good prizes were up for both baseball and football competitions. The main feature of the day was the struggle with Yellow Grass in both events. Yellow Grass won the baseball game and Milestone the football. A keen sports rivalry got into the blood of these two towns, which existed for years; reaching at times, almost the fighting stage.

A SEVERE WINTER

The winter of 1903-4 was very severe. After the 14th of January, nearly three feet of snow fell in the Milestone district. The Village Overseer knew the streets would be a quagmire in the spring and that better sidewalks must be provided, especially on Main Street.

A debenture of \$1,000.00 was authorized by the Government on January 7th and sold to Thompson and Kennedy, of Wolseley, Sask. This was Milestone's first debenture issue. Plank sidewalk construction began as soon as possible in the spring. The streets, as expected, were in a deplorable condition, almost impassable.

That was a terrible winter for the new settlers living at any considerable distance from town. The snow was so deep they could hardly get supplies and fuel out to their homesteads. The roads piled up four feet high and it was dangerous to turn out for passing, especially with a load. The low board roofed stables which nearly every farmer used, were in many cases completely covered over with snow banks and had to be dug out after every storm. Their feed was principally straw and all in stacks in the fields which were also covered with snow. It was an arduous task digging the feed out of those stacks and getting it to the stock. That spring the

Moose Jaw creek was in flood higher than it had ever been known, even by the oldest ranchers. It was a very difficult spring for the incoming settlers, who suffered severe hardships fighting snow, slush and mud for six weeks.

HEAVY IMMIGRATION

Another wave of immigration from both East and South began to arrive about April 1st, 1904, not only at Milestone, but at every town along the Soo Line from Weyburn to Moose Jaw. Thousands of people were entering Saskatchewan, the majority from the United States. One American newspaper trying to explain the vigorous 'Treck' to Canada from Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and other States, said "There must be something behind statistics and colored folders to keep a wide-awake Iowa farmer contended in the Canadian West. This something appears to include, a vigorous business-like government, a low rate of taxation, excellent protection for life and property and farm lands of exceeding productive quality, dark clay loam from six to ten feet deep."

NEW ENTERPRISES

R. B. Jones arrived in Milestone in October 1901, and as soon as building operations started the following spring, he secured the agencies of several insurance companies and started writing fire insurance on both farm and village property. This did not provide sufficient activity for Mr. Jones. He decided that the urgent need of the village was good accommodation for the travelling public. He believed there would be good money in a well managed restaurant and rooming house. Accordingly he purchased Lot 21, Block 3, and erected thereon a two story building 24x40, well arranged and finished for the purpose he planned. About July 1st, 1904, he opened to the public a restaurant, confectionery and rooming house which for comfort and management was not ex-

celled anywhere on the Soo Line. On September 1st, he turned all his insurance business over to A. W. Garratt and concentrated on making his new establishment a paying concern.

On December 2nd, 1904, Mr. Jones was elected to the office of Overseer of the Village of Milestone, a position of trust which he held until Milestone, largely through his own efforts, had been incorporated as a Town. He always gave the best that was in him for the welfare of the community. He was active in various sports, especially curling and baseball. About March 1st, 1905, he sold his restaurant to Richard England, and took a position with John R. Bunn as agent in the Bunn elevator, which was being erected that summer. During the summer of 1906, Mr. Jones erected a nice residence on the east side of town.

On August 1st, 1904, Dr. R. A. Maitland Cook arrived in Milestone looking for a location to establish a medical practice. He was an honor graduate of Trinity Medical Collage, Toronto. He began practicing immediately in opposition to Dr. LeClaire who, having no Medical license, soon ceased operations and left the village the following spring. Dr. Cook's practice developed so rapidly that before the end of the year he could hardly take care of it. He struggled with it until the spring of 1906 when he employed Dr. Reginald Stipe to assist him. During the summer of 1906 he handled a dozen cases of Infantile Paralysis. The Doctor was an all round good citizen, always taking an active part in every movement toward community progress. He was a strong man on the Board of Trade which was organized in 1905. He was one of the first to agitate for a telephone service for the village. He was elected a member of the first Town Council serving several years as Councillor. He was a member of the School Board when the new brick school was erected in 1906 and later Chairman of the Board for one year. An ardent curler, he was secretary of the curling club

for four years. He was a member of the football club and an effective player. He helped to organize a lacrosse team in 1905 and could handle a stick with the best of them.

Pat Murphy also arrived on August 1st, to open a barber shop. Finding Joseph Harvey already established, Pat arranged to buy Mr. Harvey's business, rather than to set up in opposition. His main difficulty, however, was to secure a building in which to operate. Charlie Kessler solved his problem by building an addition to his butcher shop. There was a space of nine feet between the butcher shop and R. B. Jones' restaurant, which with front and back, a roof and floor, provided small but fairly suitable quarters for Mr. Murphy's new tonsorial parlor. Mr. Murphy was a public spirited man. He held the office of Justice of the Peace which he handled very efficiently. He was also a member of the Town Council during 1908.

On September 1st, 1904, A. W. Garratt resigned his position with Anderson Brothers and opened a Land, Loan and Insurance office. He took over from R. B. Jones several insurance agencies including that of the Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company. This was his specialty; and he was not long in popularizing among the farmers, this rapidly growing mutual company. At this time Mr. Garratt was Secretary-Treasurer of the School Board and was also in close touch with everything that was going on in connection with the development of the village.

A nice little jewelry store, the first in the village, was started during the summer of 1904 by A. R. Gordon. He located just north of Jones' hardware, continued his business for about four years, when he sold to William Ramsay. He quit business to take a medical course and later became a medical doctor in Edmonton, Alberta.

LUSE AND JONES LAND COMPANY

About June 1st, 1904, the Luse and Jones Land Company actively began the real estate business at Milestone. They had for sale 65,000 acres of "black dirt" as they called it; and like the Hopper Land Company, they ran, periodically, land seekers' excursions from the United States, mostly from Iowa and Illinois. They erected a suitable office and kept a resident agent in charge during the summer months of the years 1904-05. In order to facilitate showing the land to their prospective buyers they induced Clint Leonard to build the second livery barn and equip it with sufficient horses and rigs to handle the extensive livery business, which the showing of their lands would entail. They assisted him to finance the proposition, and Mr. Leonard had the barn completed and ready for service early in 1904. Before the end of the year he had to double its capacity.

Enos Harvey erected a small shoe shop on Railway Avenue, opening business on April 1st. He stocked a small line of boots and shoes and carried on a general repair business until fall, when he lost his building by fire.

About May 1st, 1904, Charles A. Turner came to Milestone to go into the mercantile business. He bought out the stock of William Reid and rented his store for one year. He greatly increased the stock of general merchandise, specializing in staple and fancy dry goods and ladies wear, and with the assistance of his wife in the dry goods department, the Turner store became very popular.

During the same summer, Anderson Brothers doubled the capacity of their general store, and increased their stocks of gents furnishings, dry goods and ladies' wear. A lady clerk, Miss F. Culver, was put in charge of the departments of dry goods and ladies' ware, and when business was brisk Mrs. R. S. Anderson also took a hand.

It seemed to take the lady clerks in those days to make the stores popular.

HOTEL IMPERIAL

The first good hotel was erected by G. M. Gordon, of Indian Head. He visited Milestone in the spring of 1903, and noting the immigration and the rapid development, decided that there was an excellent opening for a good hotel and liquor bar. He purchased the property owned by T. A. Wallace on the corner of Railway Avenue and Main Street and began excavations for a two story brick veneer building. His plans called for twenty bedrooms and a commodious dining room, waiting room and bar room; also a general store at the north side of the building, fronting on Main Street. On the completion of the foundation some legal difficulty arose necessitating postponement of the work until the following year. Building operations were resumed early in the spring, and Hotel Imperial was opened for business on August 10, 1904.

This was a very auspicious occasion, as the village was celebrating its 3rd annual sports day, with a large crowd in attendance. The new hotel was certainly well patronized and a heavy day's business was recorded. Byron Way was the first manager; but he remained only a short time, when the hotel was leased to O. S. Peltier. The new store was occupied by M. S. Fredenberg who put in an up-to-date stock of general merchandise.

RURAL IMPROVEMENT

Prior to 1904, the only piece of road graded in the district had been done by the Government of the North West Territories, from Buck Lake (now known as Bratt's Lake) to Milestone, in the summer of 1900. Four deep furrows were plowed on each side of the proposed grade and these furrows were pushed to the centre with a blade road grader. The Milestone prairie was so excessively hummocky that even a grade of this kind was a great boon. Farmers in every part of the community began clamoring for similar graded roads.

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About June 1st, 1904, a meeting of farmers was called at the home of Angus J. Bradley, when it was unanimously resolved to apply to the Government for the establishment of a Local Improvement District. G. A. Sylte was appointed secretary of the meeting and instructed to proceed at once with the organization of Township Eleven and Twelve in Ranges Nineteen and Twenty, into a Local Improvement District. Accordingly about August 1st, 1904, Local Improvement District No. 6P2, was duly established and at the first election the following councillors were elected: A. J. Bradley, Jas. Ritchie Sr., Paul P. Lee and Albert Ross. At the first meeting of councillors A. J. Bradley was appointed Chairman and G. A. Sylte, Secretary-Treasurer. A Public Works program was immediately mapped out for 1904 and a tax levy of \$5.00 per quarter was made to cover the proposed expenditure. Four or five main roads radiating out from Milestone to the larger settlements, were graded that year, and a few culverts were put in. The following year a larger program of works was carried out and a vigorous effort was made by the secretary to induce the Department of Public Works at Regina to put in a graded road paralleling the C.P.R. on either side of Milestone. The village of Milestone strongly supported the efforts of Mr. Sylte in trying to obtain this road; and in the spring of 1905 the Milestone Board of Trade took the matter up, but were unable to get results.

R.N.W.M.P

A detachment of the Royal North West Mounted Police was opened in Milestone early in August 1904. It was maintained until 1917, when, on account of decreased strength due to the First Great War, it was closed for about ten years.

Constable F. Driscoll was the first man in charge. On April 9th, 1905, he was succeeded by Constable F. K. Horton, who was in charge for two years.

1905

The winter of 1904-05 was such an open one that nothing but wheeled vehicles could be used. Some farmers in the community were doing work on the land every month during that winter. The ground in the spring was exceedingly dry, and again, as in 1903, some were wondering if it were worthwhile soing. However, rain came in May in abundance, and crops were good that fall.

The first event to be noted in 1905, was the second fire to occur in the village. The hall and warehouse owned by Charles Benjafield burned on March 1st, resulting in a total loss, only partially covered by insurance. Mr. Benjafield and his son remained at Milestone only a short time after the fire.

Another fire occurred in the fall, when Enos Harvey's shoe shop was burned. Here the fire brigade had a real work out to save the residence of Joseph Harvey which stood only a few feet away. After this fire R. B. Jones, chief of the fire brigade, who was also Overseer of the village, seriously considered the purchase of some kind of a chemical fire engine. However, the matter was left in abeyance until the following year, after Milestone was incorporated as a town.

The Benjafield fire left the village without a hall, and for a short time all public meetings were again held in the school house. A. E. Eastman proceeded at once with the finishing of the vacant room above his implement warehouse, fitting it up as a public hall. Eastman's Hall will be remembered as the scene of many important public and political meetings, and of some fine entertainments.

One of the best entertainments of the early days was brought to Milestone by the Jubilee Singers. The house was packed, and perhaps one hundred people were turned away. The ceiling was so low that the performers could

not do justice to themselves, and the hall was seriously criticised. From that day on there was a strong agitation for a larger and better hall.

BOARD OF TRADE

The Milestone Board of Trade was organized in the spring of 1905, with R. S. Anderson as the first president. This was an active organization, their slogan being, "There is nothing too good for Milestone." They went after town incorporation, strengthening the hand of the Village Overseer in his efforts in this direction. They supported every move towards the establishment of a telephone system. They gathered much useful data re the probable cost of a water works system for Milestone. They made a survey of the rural district, and worked with the council of the Local Improvement District in planning where graded roads should be located to best serve the village and community. They urged the town-site owner to extend Railway Avenue north westerly to intercept the Buck Lake graded road west of the town-site section, but without success. Again they lined up with the Local Improvement District in their efforts to induce the Territorial Department of Public Works to open a graded highway paralleling the C.P.R. on both sides of Milestone. They appealed to the C.P.R. for a railway crossing at Carrington Street, and kept up the pressure until it was obtained. They were instrumental in getting a branch of the Union Bank at Milestone in 1905.

They also investigated the feasibility of establishing a flour mill, and collected considerable data on the costs, etc. The lack of a suitable water supply was the main factor against the project, and the matter was dropped. They gave support and encouragement to the little band organized in the spring of 1906. These are only a few of their many activities; and while they did not always attain all their objectives, yet they were always hustling, and were an effective force in the community.

NEW ENTERPRISES

Early in April, John and Ambrose Longbottom purchased Lot 25, Block 3, and began at once the erection of a building suitable for a confectionery store, ice cream parlor and residence. It was probably designed to handle some roomers as well. It was finished and opened for business about August 1st, and with Mrs. Longbottom in charge, it became a very popular place.

UNION BANK OPENS

A branch of the Union Bank of Canada was opened on August 1st, with R. H. Baird as first manager. The building used for Bank purposes was the recently vacated office of Luse and Jones Land Company; later the office of W. Hammans.

At this period in the development of Milestone, there was a large volume of business being transacted; grain, land, mercantile and horse business; and all the banking connected therewith was being done through Moose Jaw banks. This was definitely a loss to the community, and a very great inconvenience. All the business interests of the village rejoiced at the establishment of the new branch.

MILESTONE LAND & LOAN AGENCY

In 1905, J. H. Murphy and E. McMiller formed a partnership, and established the "Milestone Land & Loan Agency". They erected a commodious office building on the corner of Main Street and Prairie Avenue, one of the best sites in the village. For years they were the most aggressive and successful land dealers in the town. They induced many American land seekers to visit the Milestone district before settling elsewhere; and they sold thousands of acres to actual settlers. Mr. Murphy took an active interest in town affairs, and later served for several years on the Town Council.

In March, Ed. Kelly and A. L. Meek went into partnership, and established the Kelly & Meek dray line.

As they were especially well equipped, they soon were getting the lion's share of the business. Both of these gentlemen were enthusiastic supporters of all the sports of the day; baseball, football, curling and horse racing. Mr. Meek helped to organize the Turf Club in 1907 and in partnership with R. H. Baird, owned a race horse. Mr. Kelly specialized in baseball, always holding down first base. It would appear that no business in Milestone was so overworked as draying. Some parties would start up and operate until the license fee was demanded, when they would suddenly disappear.

ABATTOIR FOR MILESTONE

In the spring of 1905, L. Hanmer, a rancher from southern Saskatchewan, entered into partnership with Hugh Townsend under the firm name of Hugh Townsend & Company. They purposed establishing a wholesale and retail trade in both fresh and cured meats. They bought out the local butcher, Charles Kessler, and opened shops at Weyburn, Yellow Grass, Lang and Wilcox. They proceeded at once to remodel the local butcher shop. The slaughter house was transformed into a satisfactory little abattoir, and the necessary buildings and equipment were added for curing and packing. In a short time, from their new plant, was coming plenty of both fresh and cured meats to supply the local market, and their shops at the other towns. They continued the business with varying success for about eight years, when they sold out to Edmonson & Betts, of Moose Jaw. As Mr. Townsend always disliked the butcher business he gladly signed a statement that he would not enter into competition again.

This same spring A. W. Garratt found himself without an office and Pat Murphy, the barber, had to vacate the premises, he had been occupying. In partnership they erected a building 24 feet square in an excellent location on Main Street. Mr. Murphy took the north half for his

use, calling it the Maple Leaf Shaving Parlor; while Mr. Garratt put up his sign in front of the south part, which read, "Land, Loans and Insurance". For eight years all School Board, and Town Council meetings were held in Garratt's office.

Walter Hammans who had been farming at Long Creek, moved to Milestone this same spring and opened a Land, Loan and Insurance Office. He rented the office vacated by the Union Bank. Mr. Hammans took considerable interest in town affairs from the date of his arrival and later on occupied the Mayor's chair for several years in succession. He was instrumental in the organization of the Turf Club and both he and his wife took a lively interest in the racing events that followed.

Another good citizen arriving in 1905 was Mr. Robert R. McCrady. He was a carpenter by trade and for some six years he worked with contractors Theron Patience and Prosper Cowan. After 1910 and for many years Mr. McCrady carried on contracting and building on his own account. He was destined to outlast all the old carpenters of the early days and although through ill health he was forced to give up the heavier work, he is still carrying on light work at his bench. Mr. McCrady never took much active interest in sports or civic affairs but he was constantly hammering away, building the town.

Mr. and Mrs. McCrady have always been actively connected with the organizations and activities of the church; in the early days the Presbyterian and after Union the United church.

Glenn Brothers continued operations until March of this year when Steve Strickland bought out the interest of Joseph Glenn, the new firm being known as Glenn & Strickland. They developed a tremendous business during the years 1905 to 1915.

Mr. Glenn was a quiet man and did not take any aggressive part in town affairs, but he always supported

every good movement in the town. He was fond of sport such as tennis, skating and curling. He was a member of the first Trustee Board of the Methodist church and was always active and generous in church support.

Mr. Strickland took a lively interest in town development. He became one of the first members of the Board of Trade. In later years he became a member of the Town Council, serving 18 years as councillor. He always took a hearty interest in nearly all the sports of the day, tennis, lacrosse, football and curling.

On June 1st, 1905, Chas. A. Turner was given one month's notice to vacate Wm. Reid's store building which he had been occupying during the past year. This was very short notice but he succeeded in getting a new store built near the corner of Main St. and Prairie Ave. He finished the upper story as his residence. In his new location Mr. Turner conducted an excellent business for many years.

Wm. Reid sold his store building to Wm. Franklin who immediately put in a full line of general merchandise. Mr. Franklin operated this store for several years when he sold out to Greer & Worden.

In the spring of 1905 another business man appeared. A. E. Eastman quit the implement business and rented his warehouse to Dan McDonald who handled a line of implements during 1905 and 1906.

By the fall of 1905 the horse population of the Milestone district had reached large proportions, and was increasing rapidly through the aggressive operations of various horse dealers. Hugh Townsend specialized in good western horses, or bronchoes; while other dealers handled only eastern horses. These were sold to the farmers at a price ranging from \$200.00 to \$350.00 a head, and business was booming.

With so many horses in the district, one of the most urgent necessities was a good veterinarian. Dr. A. R.

Coleman, V.S., arrived in the Fall of 1905. He rapidly established an extensive practice which he carried on for four years, when he moved to Kindersley, Saskatchewan. At that date Dr. J. M. Young, V.S., assumed the veterinary practice at Milestone. Dr. Coleman was a real booster of all kinds of sport. He joined the Curling Club and became an active official. He was an enthusiastic curler and skater, and an effective player on the football forward line. He helped to organize the Turf Club in 1907 and owned "Caleb", a thoroughbred running horse, one of the best bred horses in the West.

Another business change occurred in the fall, when Dr. Coleman and Dr. Cook formed a partnership, and bought out the druggist, T. C. Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan left the town shortly afterwards.

The new firm located a little north of Turner's new store, and erected a building 24x36, with office rooms above the store. Mr. Charles McKechnie was engaged as manager, and the store was called "The People's Drug Store." In 1907 Dr. Cook sold his interest in the drug store to Charles McKechnie, the firm name becoming McKechnie and Coleman.

In the fall of 1905, J. R. Bunn became an active grain merchant. He built elevators at Milestone and Wilcox, and secured a seat on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. He sold his lumber office and yards to the Independent Lumber Company, and built a large new office on Lot 29, Block 3. His business was now principally handling land, loans and grain, especially flax. R. B. Jones became the first grain buyer in the new Bunn elevator.

Leslie Cameron, a Milestone boy, secured the position as Manager of the Independent Lumber Company, which he held until the spring of 1907. Mr. Cameron took an active interest in most of the sports of the day and was never so happy as when he was on his saddle horse. He was enthusiastic in getting the Turf Club organized, and was elected the first Vice-President.

RURAL

Up to this point much has been said regarding the urban centre, the Village of Milestone. A review of the activities of the rural section of the community is now in order. Organizing a Local Improvement District in 1904 was only a start. Those pioneer farmers conceived the idea that a large part of their future prosperity would depend upon their own efforts. Co-operation was in their blood, and was their guiding principle through all the years that followed; until Milestone in later years became widely known as one of the most aggressive co-operative districts in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Some of the early promoters of the Co-operative movement were: Angus J. Bradley, Albert Ross, James Ritchie, Thos. E. Perkins, Chas. Downing, N. B. Wilkins, Henry Bailey, R. L. Purvis, Samuel Moorhead and others.

Mr. Bradley was probably the most aggressive. He was an extensive reader, and was well acquainted with the practical results of co-operation in England and other parts of the world. His slogan was "Co-operation instead of Competition." Had he lived, he certainly would have enjoyed the later co-operative development at Milestone.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES ORGANIZED

Early in the year 1905, the farmers of the district were called together by Mr. A. J. Bradley, to a meeting in the Milestone school house, to discuss the advisability of organizing an Agricultural Society. About fifteen farmers assembled, and decided to proceed at once with organization. The seal of the society indicates that in March 1905, the Milestone Agricultural Society was duly established. The following officers were appointed: President, Thomas E. Perkins; Vice-President, Charles E. Downing; Secretary-Treasurer, Angus J. Bradley. These three officers, with the chairman of the various standing committees, together with H. Bailey and Angus Ross, constituted the first Board of Directors.

This society proved to be a veritable breeding ground for all kinds of co-operative ideas. A study of the earliest records reveals the following activities: A resolution was passed to install an 8,000 pound scale in partnership with Glenn Brothers. This was accomplished on June 24th.

A deputation was appointed to interview the Village Overseer and the Milestone merchants, requesting that all stores be kept open for business two evenings a week, preferably Wednesdays and Saturdays. This request was granted.

The co-operative handling of binder twine was decided upon, and one and one half tons ordered for the fall of 1905.

A committee was appointed to interview the threshermen of the district, urging them to grant the following requests: (a) To remove weed seeds from the wheat while threshing. (b) To take elevator weights where requested by the farmer. (c) To reduce the prices for threshing. The prices at that time, where the operator supplied a bunk car and cook car were: Wheat, 12c; Flax, 18c; Oats and Barley, 6c. If the farmer boarded the men the prices were: Wheat, 8c; Flax, 13c; Oats and Barley, 4c. The committee reported the threshermen were willing to co-operate in (a) and (b) but would not agree to reduce their prices.

At an early meeting of the Society the Secretary was instructed to ascertain the price per cwt. of a car load of flour F.O.B. Milestone, to be handled co-operatively. He reported that the price would be \$2.10 per cwt., 1st patent, from Weyburn. The flour proved good, and another car ordered later on.

At the same meeting the first beef ring was organized to operate the following summer. Henry Bailey was appointed to do the butchering and servicing, and was to receive for his services, \$2.00 per head and the hide

of the animal. When the beef ring got into operation they found it a very satisfactory co-operative endeavor, and it was continued for several years.

At a later meeting a delegation was appointed to wait on the Board of Trade, urging them to co-operate in securing a crossing over the C.P.R. tracks at Carrington street, and also in obtaining a branch of some chartered Bank to be established at Milestone. The Secretary was also instructed to write the C.P.R. urgently requesting a railway crossing at Carrington Street.

As early as 1904, H. W. Underwood had been agitating for a rural co-operative telephone line to be connected with the village. The Agricultural Society became interested in the project of telephone service for the entire district, and in the fall of 1906, appointed a committee to interview the village authorities regarding the matter. Nothing was accomplished that year, but the society strongly backed the scheme, urging the village to co-operate in getting a telephone system established.

At several meetings held during 1905 the question of a co-operative or farmer's elevator had been seriously considered. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Farmer's Elevator Company at Indian Head, to obtain details regarding organization, and how the elevator had paid them thus far.

At nearly every meeting of the society some phase of up-to-date methods of farming were discussed. Bulletins were obtained from experimental farms and given considerable study. A few of the farming questions dealt with in these discussions were as follows:

- (a) The comparative value of wheat, oats, and flax as profitable crops to raise. At that time oats yielded heavy returns and were seldom effected by smut or frost.

(b) The depth to which wheat should be sown on this heavy clay land. The soil was found to be very different to that of Ontario and Iowa, to which most of the Milestone farmers were accustomed.

(c) The advisability, or otherwise, of burning stubble.

(d) The best method of treating wheat against smut. Smut was fairly common in wheat in the early days.

(e) One of their standing committees was appointed to organize among the members of the Association, the work of experimenting with different varieties of oats. This committee did a lot of useful work.

The old records of the society indicate that there must have been a lively interest taken in its activities. The membership fee was \$1.00, and at every meeting there were from one to a dozen new members joined up.

SPORTS — FIRST BONSPIEL

Milestone's first Bonspiel was held in February 1905. It was an open spiel with competing rinks from all the Soo Line towns. It was quite a novelty for Milestone, and was closely followed with a great deal of interest by the citizens. Thereafter the bonspiel became an annual affair, and was looked forward to as the best sports event of the winter.

Skating carnivals continued to be very popular, and one or two were staged each winter for many years.

CRICKET

A cricket club was organized in the spring of 1905, and operated for a couple of years.

Their games were mostly played with Moose Jaw, either at Moose Jaw or at Milestone. Their last and toughest game was played against the Mounted Police

from Regina. The principal cricket promoters of those early days were, W. Hammans, H. Pain, Geo. Green, Mr. Daniels, H. Leuthwaite, Ed. Forester, J. S. Bouden and Mr. Quinn. They had to borrow some baseball players every time to round out a team for a match. Cricket was short lived, partly because there were not sufficient players in the district, and because it was not fast and uproarious enough to suit the west. The Milestone sport fans were accustomed to rooting or cheering their favorite teams, while at a cricket game rooting was taboo.

THE CHURCH

From 1902 to 1905 the work of the Anglican church had been carried on spasmodically by student missionaries from Eastern colleges. Early in 1905, Rev. T. E. Rowe arrived to become the first resident Vicar. He proceeded at once to properly organize the work of his church at Milestone. The personnel of the first vestry was as follows: Dr. R. Coleman, Alfred Carlson, Thomas Westover, R. A. England, Leslie Cameron and Horace Pain. W. Hammans was appointed Incumbent's Warden, and W. H. England, People's Warden. Services were first held in Eastman's Hall, later on in an unused room of the new brick school. Still later they were held in Longbottom's Hall, until the year 1909, when a church and vicarage were erected. The church war memorial, tubular bells, were installed in the year 1919. Other Anglican clergymen of the early days were Rev. C. Simmons, and Rev. P. C. Hackworth.

1906

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY CONTINUED

At the February meeting of the Agricultural Society, the Committee appointed to interview the village regarding the proposed telephone system reported no progress, and the secretary was instructed to correspond with the Minister of the Department of Telephones at Regina. Although nothing further was done by the Society, evidently their efforts must have had considerable bearing on the final establishment of the Milestone Telephone Company, and other rural lines immediately after.

At their March meeting the Society seriously discussed the advisability of holding a fall fair; but the matter was set aside until they were properly equipped to handle it. As yet they owned neither grounds nor buildings. At the same meeting they had up for discussion the question of noxious weeds. It had been noticed that stock-trains were scattering foul weed seed along the railway track, which constituted a menace to the community. The Secretary was instructed to communicate with the local member of the Legislature, urging that Section 13 of the ordinance of 1899 respecting noxious weeds be amended to include stock trains. In June 1906 they bought and distributed two cars of fence posts. The July meeting arranged for an institute to be held on August 1st as a stock judging school. A speaker was provided by the Department of Agriculture. Horses, cattle, both beef and dairy types, and hogs, were brought in for judging. This, the first Agricultural Institute to be held at Milestone, was widely advertised, was well attended and pronounced a very interesting and profitable affair.

At this same meeting of the Society, the question of a co-operative elevator was again discussed, and the project absolutely abandoned. In its place, however, a co-operative general store was decided upon. Stock was

subscribed, and a committee appointed to interview C. A. Turner and Wm. Franklin, with a view to buying one of them out, rather than build another opposition store. However, no satisfactory deal could be obtained with either party, and plans were immediately made for the erection of a suitable building just north of the drug store.

Following their application to the Provincial Government for incorporation, the old records indicate the following set up: Name, The Milestone Co-operative Company, Limited; Incorporated, December 10, 1906; Capitalization, \$10,000.00 or 200 shares of \$50.00 each. Directors: President, James Ritchie; Vice-President, Albert Ross; Treasurer, Charles Downing. There were 62 members who held 108 shares.

The store was built, stocked, and in operation before incorporation proceedings were completed. R. M. Anderson was appointed Manager at a salary of \$1,200.00 per annum. The Farmer's Store operated for about three years, and although the management was twice changed, the directors found they were making no progress. They decided to close up, and on August 15, 1908, sold their interests to J. E. Martin at 90c on the dollar. The failure of the Farmer's Store was a great disappointment to the shareholders.

MILESTONE BOOMING

Besides the annual influx of settlers in the spring of 1906, with the consequent activity and general stimulation of business, Milestone had a considerable list of new buildings and enterprises lined up for the year. The following might be noted:

1. Weekly Newspaper, the "Milestone Mail."
2. Town Incorporation.
3. New four roomed brick school.
4. An electric light plant and machine shop.
5. J. R. McKenzie's implement warehouse.
6. Saskatchewan Lumber Company's establishment.

7. A flax and fibre mill.
8. Farmer's Store.
9. Large Gent's Furnishing Store, Enos Harvey.
10. Union Bank Building.
11. The Christian Church.
12. Brass Band organization.
13. Two new Real Estate dealers.
14. Two new residences, R. B. Jones, and Wm. Read.

To cap it all, the district produced that year the finest crop that had yet been grown since settlement began. The Soo Line area led the province in production of wheat, oats and flax. High averages obtained throughout the whole district.

MILESTONE MAIL

One of the most important and welcome enterprises of the early days was the advent of a weekly newspaper, the Milestone Mail. The publishers, E. M. Seager and C. W. Holmes, known as the Seager-Holmes Publishing Company, brought out their first issue on April 5, 1906. An introductory note by the editors stated that the paper would be conducted on strictly independent lines. It was the first local newspaper to be established between Weyburn and Moose Jaw. Rouleau followed soon after. It was a ten page issue, with about half a page of local Milestone news, as well as news contributed by correspondents at Yellow Grass, Lang, Wilcox, Buck Lake, Long Creek and Fairview. The Mail prided itself on being the best advertising medium on the Soo Line. The first issue carried 56 advertisements for Milestone business interests, 13 from Lang, 9 from Yellow Grass and 3 from Wilcox; Several of them being almost quarter page ads. A correspondent from Buck Lake wrote: "Hurrah for the Milestone Mail, it is just what we have been looking for. It is very welcome in our home."

A. E. Eastman had sold his furniture business and rented the west half of his building to Seager-Holmes Company as a printing office.



J. J. CURRIE
FIRST MAYOR OF MILESTONE



TOWN INCORPORATION

The year 1905 had been a difficult one for the Village Overseer, R. B. Jones. The Village Ordinance did not grant sufficient powers to cope with the rapid development. Services and improvements were required that could not possibly be financed out of the meagre revenues produced under a Single Tax system, and Mr. Jones, early in 1906, began an agitation to have Milestone incorporated as a town. In this he was strongly supported by the Board of Trade. Town incorporation carried with it the legal obligation of the Council to assess for revenue purposes, all real estate within the boundaries of the corporation, as well as all buildings and other improvements thereon.

According to the Town Act at that time, it was necessary to have a population of at least 500 before application for town status could be made. Mr. Jones took the census himself, and much to the surprise of many, found the required population. He immediately made application to the Department of Municipal Affairs for incorporation, and on July 26th, an order-in-council provided for the establishment of the Town of Milestone, to become effective on August 15th, 1906.

C. E. T. Fitzgerald, a lawyer who had opened an office in Milestone early in the spring, had handled all the legal work in connection with the transaction from village to town, and was named the returning officer for the first election for Mayor and Councillors. The election was held immediately after incorporation. The mayoralty contest provided some real excitement. J. J. Currie and R. S. Anderson were the nominees. Mr. Anderson held the spot light, doing a lot of high powered electioneering but Mr. Currie was elected by a small margin, thus becoming the first mayor of the Town of Milestone. The first councillors elected were as follows: A. E. Jones, Hardware Merchant; J. R. McKenzie, Implement Dealer;

Hugh Townsend, Horse Dealer; Maitland Cook, Physician; T. A. Wallace, Liveryman; James Morrison, Restaurateur.

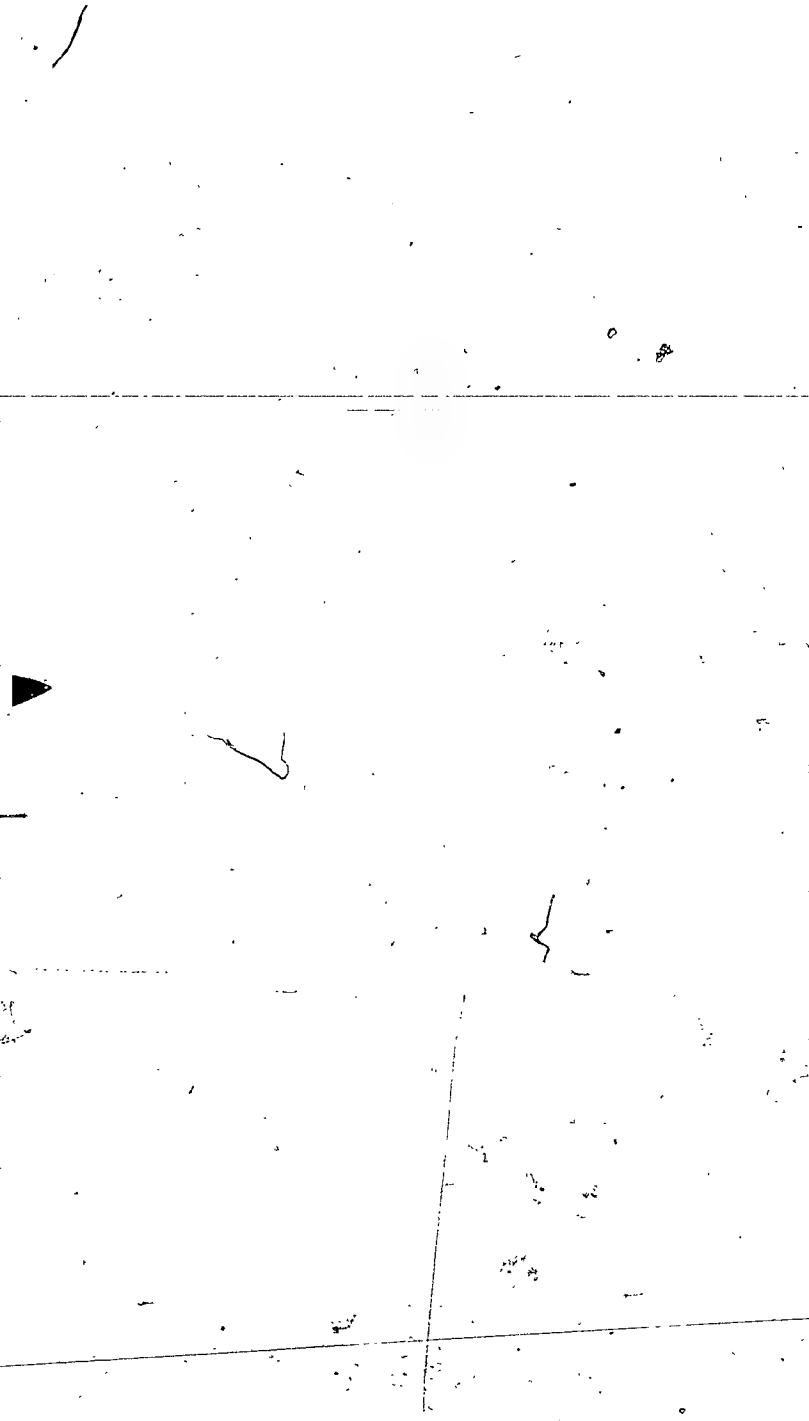
The first meeting of the council was held on September 3rd, 1906, with a full attendance. A. W. Garratt was acting as secretary, and at this meeting it was ordered that an advertisement be inserted in the Milestone Mail calling for applications for the office of Secretary-Treasurer and Assessor. An application was received from E. M. Seager and accepted; but before a by-law could be passed officially appointing him, he found it necessary to resign, and A. W. Garratt was duly appointed as Secretary-Treasurer and Assessor of the Town at a salary of \$250.00 per annum. Mr. Garratt retained the office for eight years.

During the years 1904 and 1905 the citizens had been urging the townsite owner to survey some additional lots or an annex to the present townsite. This would provide a better choice of building locations. Mr. Martin refused on the grounds that the inequitable tax system being used would only add to his already unjust tax burden. However, in the summer of 1906, when he saw a move towards town incorporation, and knowing that it would compel the town to change to a double tax system, he proceeded at once with the survey of a new annex of 9 blocks, north and west of the former one. It contained seventeen business lots and eighty-one residential lots. There were also sites for a town hall, a park and for a Catholic Church. A considerable number of these lots were picked up immediately after being put on the market.

On September 18th, the Town Council passed the following resolution: "That the present system of taxation be changed, and that all real and personal property within the corporation limits be assessed and taxed." The assessor prepared the roll accordingly, and presented it to the council on October 15th. A copy was also forwarded to the Attorney General's Department for



A. W. GARRATT
FIRST SCHOOL TEACHER, 1902
AND
FIRST TOWN CLERK, 1906 TO 1914



approval but it was set aside as illegal for 1906, having been made too late in the year. The council therefore was compelled to again use the village single tax assessment for 1905, and a tax rate of 35 mills was levied. This was the heaviest levy that had yet been made, and still did not provide sufficient funds. It was, however, a severe blow to the townsite owner. He had just recently financed the survey of the new Annex, and now was confronted with a tax levy of 35 mills on the valuation of all the unsold portion of both the old and new surveys. Mr. Martin appealed and protested in vain against such an unreasonable tax levy, but unfortunately, the council was unable to alter it at this late date. It was thought that some members of the council were quite pleased that the assessment could not be changed, as at that very time they were discussing their own grievances against the townsite owner.

On November 6th, 1906, a mass meeting of citizens was called to draw up a memorial of grievances against the townsite owner, and to seek redress by memorializing the Saskatchewan Municipal Commission. The grievances as cited in the memorial were as follows: (1) The refusal to extend and survey Railway Avenue north westward to the public road west of the townsite section. This was an urgent necessity as a road out of town to the north-west. It had been requested for four years and always refused. (2) The failure to keep a sufficient number of lots platted on each side of town so that a purchaser might have a reasonable choice of location. (3) The withdrawal of desirable residential lots from the market, especially Block 5. (4) The placing of such building restrictions on desirable lots that the purchase of same was greatly retarded. (5) Refusal to sell acre or half-acre plots in any desirable location, compelling the prospective purchaser to buy outside the townsite. (6) The refusal to sell to the School Board the site they had chosen for the new brick school now in course of erection.

About December 15th, J. W. Smith, Chairman of the urban department of the Municipal Commission was asked to visit Milestone, when the above memorial was presented for his consideration. The Town Council and several witnesses, also a representative of the townsite owner, were present at the hearing, at the close of which the Commissioner stated a report of his findings would be submitted to the Government, and that probably some remedial legislation would be passed dealing with the situation at Milestone. Here the matter stood and nothing further of a definite nature was done for some months, although considerable friction still continued.

When the council made the Double Tax assessment in the fall of 1906, which was disallowed, they had considered a fairly large program of public works for the following spring, in addition to what the Village Overseer had planned. When, however, they were compelled to revert to the single tax, they found themselves far short of their financial requirements. They were forced to cut down their estimates and to borrow to the limit to carry out even a partial program of necessary works and other expenditures.

It was being burned into the members of the council that the single tax system was absolutely inadequate for the requirements of any thriving, growing town.

Until the summer of 1906, Milestone had managed to get along without a lock-up; but that year such an establishment became necessary as criminal tendencies were on the increase. The Town Council, as one of the first acts, took steps to provide a lock-up. It was erected on Lot 5, Block 8, the contract awarded to George Dean, and the total cost was \$435.00.

On September 14th, W. J. Strong was appointed to the office of Town Constable, at a salary of \$75.00 per annum, and usual fees for arrests and serving of summonses.

The fire brigade was re-organized with the following officers: Chief, R. B. Jones; Lieutenants, Ed Kelly and H. Pain; Marshall, J. J. Griffith. A new chemical fire engine, with supplies to operate it, was purchased the following spring.

MORE REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Two new Real Estate dealers, Allen E. Perkins and Thomas Hargraves began business in the spring of 1906.

Mr. Perkins, after he had skimmed off the cream of the land business at Milestone, moved on to Rosetown and Saskatoon where we understand he did a large and profitable business.

Mr. Hargraves at first was a partner of W. Hammans, later operating on his own. He specialized in locating homesteaders and others on lands in the south country. The only sport of Mr. Hargraves took much interest in was horses and racing. He helped to organize the Turf Club in 1907 and became secretary treasurer of the association. He owned an imported race horse, and took a lively interest in all the racing events that followed the organization of the club.

SASKATCHEWAN LUMBER COMPANY

Another important enterprise for 1906 was the establishment of the third coal, wood and lumber yard by the Saskatchewan Lumber Company. They purchased lots 6 to 10 in Block 1 and erected their office and sheds along Railway Avenue, a length of 120 feet. They put in a tremendous stock of first class lumber and other building materials. They were agents for Galt coal, considered then the very best stove coal on the market. The first manager was George Zickrick. The band boys were glad to see Mr. Zickrick arrive as he was a real artist on the bass horn.

ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT

Some mention has been made of Arthur Townsend who arrived in Milestone the Spring of 1902. He came to the West primarily for his health. He held a good position in England, being manager of the Extension Department of the B.T.H. Electrical Company of Rugby, England.—His friend, L. Hutt was assistant manager. They were both expert electricians and engineers and both had important electrical inventions to their credit. Mr. Hutt joined Mr. Townsend at Milestone in the spring of 1906. They had first contemplated a telephone system for the village but J. R. Bunn induced them to put in an electric light plant. They also planned a machine shop and small foundry in connection with the light plant. They installed a gas producer engine of about 35 horse power and during the fall of 1906 got their electric light poles set and wire strung. About April 1st, 1907, the light was turned on, although they did not get their franchise until the fall. The town granted them a 20 year franchise, and during that time they gave very good satisfaction. The light rates were a little high but not much out of range as compared with the cities. It was perhaps the first small town electric light plant in the province.

Mr. Townsend was a clever man and could lay his hand to anything. He was a blacksmith, a carpenter, a brick layer and could do any mechanical job that had to be done. He always liked to start where other mechanics were stuck. Mr. Hutt was almost as handy as Mr. Townsend. Mr. Hutt played the baritone in the town band while he was in Milestone.

McKENZIE & AARNES

The fourth implement warehouse was erected by J. R. McKenzie early in February 1906. As was customary he used the upper story as his residence. He went into

partnership with Paul O. Aarnes, the firm name being McKenzie & Aarnes. They handled a full line of McCormick machinery also Mandt wagons, P. & O. plows and some of the goods of the American Machine Company.

Mr. McKenzie took an active interest in town affairs, was instrumental in getting the town incorporated and became a member of the first Town Council. He was connected with various other organizations and apparently was secretary of the most of them as he was always overloaded with secretaryships.

Mr. Aarnes retired from the implement business and took up farming.

FLAX AND FIBER MILL

Mr. T. Trombyll, representing the Flax and Fiber Company of Montreal, waited upon the Town Council about June 1906 and proposed the building of a flax and fiber plant at Milestone in time to handle the flax straw in the fall. He hinted he might ask for some concessions later on.

Mr. Trombyll purchased three acres of land from A. Carlson on the east side of the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ -10-12-19 and as near the railway as possible. He erected a frame building 30x40 and on September 21st, gave notice that he was ready to buy flax straw. During the fall and winter, two long stacks of flax straw were piled up. He ordered all his machinery and started boring a well. Presently his engine arrived but no other machinery. He therefore made a trip East to hurry it up. While East he wrote the Town Council asking for exemption from taxation for 15 years and a cash bonus of \$10,000.00. The Council replied, granting the proposed tax exemption but would not consider the "cash bonus". That was the last of the Flax & Fiber Mill. Carlson got the building and engine and the flax straw was burnt up.

Mr. Trombyll had raised the hopes of the whole community as he had informed the Council that he could

use all the flax straw the district could produce and that his plant would require 200 to 250 employees.

When Enos Harvey lost his little shoe shop by fire in the fall of 1905, he decided to re-establish his business on Main street.

He, in partnership with his brother James, bought Lot 5, Block 7, and erected a frame building 24x40 feet, two stories high, designed for a Gents' Furnishing store and a dwelling above. They put in a large and well assorted stock of shoes and gents' furnishings, and had a shoe repairing department. They carried on their business for three years, when they sold their building to the Milestone Publishing Company. The partnership was dissolved. Enos Harvey moved to Riceton, Sask., where he opened a general store.

UNION BANK

The new Union Bank building erected on the corner of Main Street and Prairie Avenue, was a fine addition to the town. It was a building 25x46, two stories high, and was completed and occupied about the end of the year. The lower storey was used strictly for banking purposes, the upper for residence.

GARRATT & PERKINS

In March, 1906, W. B. Perkins entered into partnership with A. W. Garratt to conduct a Land, Loan and Insurance business. Mr. Garratt remained Town Clerk, and Secretary of the School Board, and handled the Insurance Department, while Mr. Perkins handled the Land and Loan Department. The partnership continued for two years, when Mr. Perkins withdrew to accept the position of manager of the local yards of the Independent Lumber Company.

BRICK SCHOOL HOUSE

The Milestone School Board took a step forward in 1906. The frame school building erected in 1901, had become seriously overcrowded, and steps were taken

early in the spring to provide a new building worthy of the community and sufficiently large, it was thought, to accommodate the school attendance for many years to come.

Plans and specifications were obtained for a four room brick building; the contract being awarded to George Dean, at a price of about \$8,500.00. John R. Bunn was appointed building inspector. The school should have been finished and ready for occupancy about October 1st, but owing to lack of material it was delayed until April 1st, 1907. Only two rooms were required and finished at the time; the others later on as the attendance increased.

The new school was opened with C. J. McKay as principal, Miss Annie Moorhead as assistant, and with an attendance of 44, 32 junior and 12 senior pupils.

Before the School Board had made any definite plans for the new school building, they endeavored to secure a school site farther from the railway. They made application to the townsite owner for all of Block 5 at a price of \$2,000.00, which they considered would make an excellent site.

Had the Board been able to secure Block 5, the new brick school would then have been erected about where Mr. J. J. Currie later built his cement block house. However, Mr. Martin refused to sell Block 5 for a school site on any conditions, but offered to present free of charge what the Board considered an inferior site at the north-western part of the town. The Board decided to use the site they had, and proceeded at once with building operations.

BRASS BAND

In the fall of 1905, William Gee, a tinsmith connected with the Jones Hardware, who was a proficient clarionette player, endeavored to organize a band. There were several local boys who owned their own instruments and under the leadership of Mr. Gee, got together and played

at the skating rink during the winter. It was not a great success. They needed more players and funds for new instruments. A Grand Carnival was staged in February, and the proceeds, \$100.00 was put into a Band fund. During the winter several experienced players arrived in town, and in April re-organization took place with A. W. Garratt as president and Nelson Butcher as secretary-treasurer. Garratt, Butcher and Gee were a committee to canvass for additional funds. The response was very generous. The Board of Trade took an active interest in the organization. Eight brass instruments and two drums were purchased, making a band of sixteen pieces. Ralph Brown, an excellent cornet player, was appointed as leader. Nearly all the players were more or less experienced, and the Band started away in the spring rendering good music. They took on several engagements during that summer.

The evening after the first Town election, August 15th, they serenaded the new Mayor, J. J. Currie, and each of the six councillors elected. This provided a fine finish for an important and exciting day. Mr. Currie showed his appreciation by handing the treasurer \$5.00 towards the band funds, and three or four of the councillors did likewise. The Milestone band was one of the most popular organizations in town.

SPORTS

The Spring of 1906 saw the Milestone Baseball Club enthusiastically looking forward to a successful year, but they lacked a good second baseman. At the same time Dr. Cook required an assistant in his practice and happened to know a young medical graduate in Ontario, who could fill both positions admirably. Therefore the Doctor, and the ball club, brought out from the East, Dr. Reginald Stipe, a graduate of the Toronto School of Medicine. He arrived on April 24th, and immediately assumed his two jobs. He practiced in partnership with

Dr. Cook, and was made captain and playing manager of the ball team, holding down second base. For two years the ball team took on all and sundry, always giving a good account of themselves. Dr. Stipe was a booster of every kind of sport.

On March 21st, 1906, the Milestone Lacrosse Club was organized with the following officers: Honorary president, R. H. Baird; president, C. W. Holmes; secretary-treasurer, Dr. Maitland Cook. A committee was appointed to canvas for funds for nets and other equipment. By mid-summer they were able to put a very fine team in the field, and according to the Milestone Mail of that date, they gave notice to all other lacrosse minded towns on the Soo Line, to prepare to lose their scalps. A league was formed including Rouleau, Milestone, Yellow Grass, Weyburn and Estevan, and during the season some great games were played.

Prior to 1906, the football team had been very successful in their league of Soo Line towns, but as lacrosse enthusiasm increased, the interest in football decreased, owing to the fact that many of the best football players were also ardent lacrosse men. As years passed, lacrosse followed football to the bone yard, while baseball, receiving new blood each spring, continued to flourish.

THE CHURCH

The work of the Church of Christ was organized in January 1906 by Rev. J. A. L. Roming, evangelist for Western Canada. D. B. English, A. E. Jones and J. M. Ming constituted the first Trustee Board. A suitable location was secured, and a church erected which was dedicated on the first Sunday in November 1906. Evangelist Roming and Rev. A. R. Adams, the first resident pastors, officiated at the dedication. Mr. Adams served for a term of two years and was succeeded by Rev. R. J. Westaway. Rev. W. G. Kitchen was another early and

popular pastor of the church. Later on Mr. S. A. Middleton became pastor serving until his death.

Mr. S. A. Middleton was one of the early settlers, homesteading five miles south of town. He had been pastor of a Baptist church in the United States. During his homesteading years and after, he was doing considerable land business. At one time he was employed as Milestone Town Constable. Later on he was agent and grain buyer in the old Winnipeg Elevator. During all these years he was never quite satisfied with his occupation. His mind was continually reverting to his former calling. He decided to return to the ministry, and became a very acceptable pastor in the Milestone Christian Church.

Mr. Middleton passed away in his pulpit while conducting a Sunday morning service.

1907

BOARD OF TRADE

At the annual meeting of the Board of Trade held in April 1907, Mr. R. S. Anderson was elected president for the ensuing year. He was enthusiastic for advertising the town and district. A motion was passed at this meeting that an advertisement be put in the Milestone Mail setting out the good points and advantages of both the town of Milestone and rural district.

Mr. Hugh McKeller, Commissioner for the Moose Jaw Board of Trade, had been invited to attend this meeting to bring information regarding the proposed organization of The Associated Boards of Trade of Moose Jaw and the Soo Line towns. The main purpose of this organization would be a board scheme for advertising. Milestone decided to make no move during 1907, but to gather all the information possible on the matter.

MILESTONE PROSPECTUS

John R. Bunn, retiring president of the Board of Trade, gave a report of the rapid and substantial development of the Milestone district during the previous twelve months.

The grain shipped from this point during the year 1906-1907 crop was 211,000 bushels of wheat, 117,500 bushels of flax, and 170,000 bushels of oats, a total of 498,500 bushels or 277 cars, representing \$292,380. Total town business for the year was \$739,630. 236 cars of settlers' effects had come in, besides nearly that number of cars of machinery, coal, lumber and other merchandise. 93,308 letters had passed through the Milestone Post Office, and the total business of the Post Office including money orders issued, money orders cashed and stamps sold during the year, was nearly \$40,000.00. This was about 50% advance on the previous year. The Milestone Mail commenting on Mr. Bunn's report said, "The rapid development of this district was due to the wonderful fertility of the soil. We get good crops wet or dry."

SEVERE WINTER

The winter of 1906-07 was exceptionally severe, even worse than that of 1904, because it was two months longer. It started on November 14th with a violent three day blizzard. Two feet of snow fell during that storm and snow banks were piled up in town ten feet high. Cold stormy weather prevailed for about five months. It was another terrible winter for the people in the rural areas. There were many near tragedies because of the difficulty of getting coal and supplies. Trains were stalled on some lines, and the coal shortage was the worst ever known in the history of the Soo Line. There was a heavy crop of wheat and flax to ship, but the serious shortage of freight cars rendered it impossible to get much out. The Board of Trade made an effort to get American freight cars, in which to ship direct to Minneapolis and Duluth. These arrangements were almost completed when the C.P.R. managed to get some cars loose for the Soo Line.

The Moose Jaw Creek was higher that spring than in 1904, and again presented a serious problem to the settlers south of the creek in getting to town. It was a wet, cold, late spring. It was reported that a game of hockey was played in Weyburn on May 1st, on good ice. Seeding operations were delayed until May 20th. However, crops made a vigorous growth and while there was some frosted grain in the fall, most of it came through without damage.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY CONTINUED

At the regular meeting of the Agricultural Society in Dec. 1906 plans were made to hold a seed grain fair on February 4th, 1907. This seed fair proved to be a decided success. Much credit was due many of the best farmers in the district, who procided some excellent exhibits of wheat, oats, barley, flax, potatoes and vegetables. Weeds were beginning to show up in the district and this seed fair provided a demonstration as to the quality and purity of grain that should be used for seed.

Early in 1906 a committee had been appointed to look up and purchase suitable grounds for the use of the Agricultural Society. They were figuring on a block of ten to fifteen acres. On December 15, 1907 the committee reported that 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres had been purchased from the Turf Club at \$55.00 per acre.

At their meeting held on January 26, 1907, a motion was unanimously passed that the Society affiliate with the Grain Growers of Saskatchewan. From that date on all Co-operative dealing was done through the Grain Growers; and the principal future activities of the Agricultural Society were the erection of the necessary buildings on their newly acquired grounds, the enlargement of their premises and the holding of those splendid annual fall fairs, which in those early days were instrumental in putting Milestone on the map.

The Agricultural Society and the Milestone Board of Trade had for two years been urgently requesting the C.P.R. to put in a railway crossing at Carrington street. It was finally approved and opened for traffic on Oct. 14th, 1907. It was a great convenience for the farmers north of town hauling grain to the elevators, and for the draymen who found it a much shorter haul. Until 1903 the crossing had been between the station and water tank, but was moved to about thirty rods west of the station, which was very inconvenient for all concerned. Carrington street was opened and graded southwestward to the road allowance south of the townsite quarter. The farmers south west of Milestone found this new entrance to the town shorter and more convenient. This crossing, and the street to the south should have been made ready for traffic in 1902, when the new townsite was surveyed.

The first agricultural fair was held July 31, 1908, with a tremendous crowd in attendance. Being a new venture in which every one in the community could participate, the farmers and their wives rallied to the occasion to make it a grand success. It was an indication of the

splendid achievements of the Milestone farmers in the various lines of agriculture, so early in the history of the community. It was the first agricultural fair to be held on the Soo Line.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

The first telephone service in Milestone was a private line connecting Hugh Townsend's residence with his butcher shop and his abattoir. It was installed by Arthur Townsend in the spring of 1905.

On October 20th, 1907 the Milestone Mail announced: "Milestone is to have a telephone service. The Weyburn Security Company are putting in a line from Weyburn to Moose Jaw. They contemplate that connection would be made either at Rouleau or Regina with the Bell Telephone System, giving the intervening Soo Line towns the much needed long distance, as well as local service."

A little later on the Saskatchewan Telephone Company bought out the Weyburn Security Company and gave notice that all installation and finishing would go ahead without delay. However, Milestone made no attempt to get the Saskatchewan Telephone connection and local service, as there was at the time a movement on foot for a rural Telephone Company organization with the town, to be handled on an assessment and co-operative basis.

To H. W. Underwood goes the credit of first suggesting a rural telephone service connected with the urban center. He came from Iowa, where he had enjoyed the benefits of telephone service, and he knew it would be an excellent thing here on the prairie. The long hard winters of 1903-04 and 1906-07, when farmers were almost marooned on their farms, convinced him that a telephone system was absolutely necessary. For over two years he and M. F. Nicholas had tried in vain to get their neighbours interested, and in the spring of 1907 they had almost decided to erect a private line, if the neighbours would not join them. They called a meeting of all who should be inter-

ested, and were agreeably surprised when all the neighbours turned up, ready to go ahead with the organization of a telephone company. Sixteen members signed up, each taking six \$5.00 shares. The idea was to join with the town, or to incorporate the company including the town; but only two parties in town could be induced to take shares in the company. These were J. R. McKenzie and Horace Pain. However, the necessary material was ordered, and construction work was started as soon as possible. The line reached the C.P.R. tracks late in the fall of 1907; but could not proceed until certain regulations of the C.P.R. were complied with, regarding the carrying of telephone lines over their right of way. Being too late in the season to do this before the freeze-up, the line was carried temporarily along the south side of the track to a little shack south of the elevators owned by B. Sturdevant. A telephone was installed here, and that constituted the telephone system for 1907. Mr. Sturdevant acted as messenger to any part of the town, at a fee of 15 cents per message. The arrangement proved very unsatisfactory.

On August 12th, 1907 application was made to the town council for permission to erect poles and string wires in the streets and alleys, and to operate a telephone exchange in the town of Milestone. The permission was immediately granted.

During the summer of 1907, largely through the efforts of Dr. M. Oook and A. W. Garratt who had been appointed by the Board of Trade, the business men of the town had been induced to subscribe for the necessary shares. The original company, therefore now included the Town of Milestone, and was incorporated on the 18th day of September, 1907, as the "Milestone Farmers' Mutual Telephone Company, No. 1, Limited", with the following officials: President, M. F. Nicholas; Vice-President, A. Hatlen; Secretary-Treasurer, H. W. Underwood; Provisional Directors, G. M. Perkins, R. Menzies, and A. J. Bradley. Capitalization, \$10,000.00.

About October 1st, 1907 a directors meeting was held, when the officers were changed. H. W. Underwood was elected president, A. Hatlen, vice-president, and A. W. Garratt, secretary treasurer, with the same directors.

At this meeting all the poles, wire and other material for construction work in the town was ordered, also a medium sized switch-board. The president and secretary were instructed to arrange for a central office or exchange. Mr. Garratt was also instructed to interview the C.P.R. regarding the carrying of the telephone wires across their right of way. A blue-print was furnished for guidance when construction should be resumed in the spring of 1908.

NEW PUBLIC HALL

In September, Mr. John Longbottom purchased the old Milestone hotel and began remodelling it for more necessary purposes. By raising the roof, lengthening the building and considerable remodelling, he furnished the accommodation for a store below and a public hall above. The hall was greatly needed at this time, as Eastman's hall had been condemned some time before.

In the spring of 1907 another Real Estate Agency was added to the extensive list already in operation. John Jacobs and H. E. (Bert) Hadfield, who in 1904 and 1905 were drivers for the Luse and Jones Land Company, formed a partnership known as the Jacobs & Hadfield Land Company. In driving the prospective buyers for Luse and Jones they were learning how easy it was to sell land in the Milestone district. They got into the game themselves and for two years did a very satisfactory business. These gentlemen took a lively interest in the town affairs, always ready to assist any movement for advancement. Mr. Jacobs became a member of the Town Council and also of the School Board.

BUSINESS CHANGE

In 1907 Mr. Thomas A. Hill, of Yellow Grass took over the Milestone Agency of the Massey-Harris Company, which he handled for some five years. During his short residence in Milestone Mr. Hill took an active interest in church and civic affairs. He was superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School and a member of the choir. He served on the Town Council for two years and was an active member of the Board of Trade. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hill were prominent in the social life of the town; and when they left Milestone in 1912, it was then discovered what a large place they had filled.

The year 1907 should have led to happier relations between the citizens of Milestone and the townsite owner, than appeared to exist that fall. Mr. Martin had placed a new survey of lots on the market, many of which had been bought up at once. The Town Council had substituted the double tax system for 1907 in place of the single tax, thereby reducing Mr. Martin's taxes to a reasonable figure, which he stated was satisfactory to him. The first assessment under the single tax basis was used in 1904, when Mr. Martin paid 47% of all taxes levied. In 1905 he paid 48% and in 1906, 53%. These were unreasonable rates, but in 1907 under the double tax basis he paid only 12½%. Therefore, a goodly number of the citizens believed that more amicable relations could soon be looked for.

There was, however, an undercurrent of dissatisfaction still existing. One of the sorest grievances was Mr. Martin's refusal to extend Railway Ave. north westerly to the road allowance. This extension was of utmost importance as a road into town from the districts north and west. The citizens were not forgetting the memorial of grievances which had the year before been placed in the hands of the chairman of the municipal commission.

At a meeting of the Town Council held on October 28, 1907, a motion was passed to instruct the town solicitor to prepare a bylaw authorizing the expropriation of sufficient land to extend Railway Ave. northwesterly to the western boundary of the townsite quarter. This however, was not carried into effect.

At the annual meeting of the Council, held on December 6th, 1907, Mr. J. R. Bunn, the only man willing to stand for the office of Mayor for the year 1908, gave a short address in which he outlined his stand on certain important issues likely to come up the following year. One thing he made very clear was, that his influence would be exerted to have the single tax re-established. On hearing the stand of the mayor-elect on the tax issue the citizens knew that the controversy with the townsite owner would certainly get worse instead of better.

RURAL

The high water in the spring of 1907 revealed to the Council of the Local Improvement District the location of the most urgently required improvements. Their program of works called for two bridges, many culverts and forty miles of road grading. Several bad sloughs were filled or specially graded and others were drained. In all, their program called for the expenditure of \$3,200.00 the highest so far in the history of the district.

As mentioned before, the spring was so wet in all southern Saskatchewan that it was extremely difficult for the farmers to get their crops sown. However, they succeeded and an excellent crop was the result. According to a Government report of the 1907 crop year, this district No. 2 known as the Francis-Rouleau, Milestone, Weyburn District produced 8,003,932 bushels of grain in the year 1907, which was even better than 1906.

The details for the whole are as follows:

Wheat	4,078,993 bushels
Oats	3,059,957 bushels
Barley	131,773 bushels
Flax	733,229 bushels

This was in excess of any other district in the province by about $2\frac{3}{4}$ million bushels. This district No. 2 produced over half of the flax crop of the entire province.

The following is a report of the average yields of wheat, oats, and flax in the Milestone local area for the year 1907:

Wheat	30 to 40 bushels per acre
Oats	75 to 100 bushels per acre
Flax	15 to 20 bushels per acre

The following is a poem which appeared in the Milestone Mail in November 1907. It is not high-class poetry, but it certainly breaths the spirit of satisfaction which characterized the American settlers in the Milestone district.

NORTH WEST CANADA

Come all you honest farmers,
What want to change your lot;
And have spunk enough to follow me,
Beyond your native spot.
Come, leave behind the village,
Where pa and ma do stay
And go with me and settle
In North-West Can-a-da.

I've heard of your Penobscots,
Way down in Iowa,
Where pork and beef are plenty,
And also corn and hay;

But who, among her land sharks,
Would give all you make and stay
When you can be independent
In North-West Can-a-da.

Now there is old Missouri—
What do we care for that—
Your girls, they are so pretty,
And their mules they are so fat;
But who among her mountains,
In rain and mud would stay,
When you can get prairie,
In North-West Can-a-da.

And there's the state of Nebraska—
Once good 'nough to be sure—
But now she's always wanting,
Taxation and manure;
Has caused you pecks of trouble,
But not a peck of pay,
While all is free and easy
In North-West Can-a-da.

Oh! where's there any country,
In such a little time
That sprang up from its nursery—
And now just in her prime?
When homesteads first were taken,
T'was but the other day,
And now she's quite a lady,
This North-West Can-a-da.

Come, all you jolly fellows,
With mighty hearts like me,
With elbow grease in plenty,
To bow the forest tree;

Come take a quarter-section,
And I'll bet that you will say
This country takes the banner
From all the states to-day.

—L. D. Inghram, of Iowa.

SPORTS

Lacrosse and baseball both flourished during the summer of 1907. Both clubs were members of Soo Line Leagues, and both were fairly successful in their summer's operations. Some of the home games of lacrosse were very fine to watch. The baseball club won 60% of their games that summer.

Beginning with the spring of 1905 the horse racing sport fans had been seriously discussing a Turf Club for Milestone. Some good horses were owned in the town and vicinity, and the fans believed the time was ripe to embark on this line of sport.

A meeting was called early in July 1907, to deal with the matter, when it was resolved to apply to the Provincial Government for incorporation.

Following this the Milestone Turf Club, Ltd. was incorporated on August 7th, 1907, with a capitalization of \$5,000.00 divided into 500 shares of \$10.00 each. A list of about a dozen shareholders accompanied the application for incorporation.

The first official report, submitted to the Government on Feb. 1st, 1908, named the following officials: O. S. Peltier, president; Leslie Cameron, vice-president; T. N. Hargraves, secretary-treasurer; directors: Dr. R. Coleman and J. C. Marrison. According to this report there were 72 shareholders who held 88 shares.

They purchased 33 acres of land from J. H. Murphy, just south of the C.P.R. and in eight days, they had a half mile track graded, and bleachers erected ready for the coming sports day.

The Town Council had proclaimed Aug. 6th as a civic holiday, and the citizens joined with the Turf Club in sponsoring the biggest sport event that had yet been held in Milestone. The horse races certainly drew a tremendous crowd and were the chief feature of the day. There were harness races, trot or pace, running races, mile and half mile classes and a pony race. A baseball team from Bowbells, N.D., defeated the locals after a hotly contested match; and a Junior team from Lang took the junior event. There was also a good program of foot races and other athletic sports for both junior and senior contestants. The Milestone Band furnished the music, and the day was concluded with an open air dance in the evening sponsored by the Band. This was the most successful sports day, Milestone had yet attempted.

THE CHURCH

In the year 1904 several prominent Catholic families of Milestone and district, desiring some opportunity for public worship, got together, and at their request Fr. Kaspar came from Regina and said Mass at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Driscoll. Other priests who followed were Fr. Suffa and Fr. Kim, who, until the spring of 1907, came occasionally and said Mass at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Driscoll and Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Martin.

At this time it was decided that a church building was necessary. Mr. J. H. Murphy and Mr. P. M. Martin, both connected with the church, purchased the frame school house that the Milestone school board had recently discarded and moving it to the corner of Souris street and Regina Avenue, converted it into a church. The building was 18x28 and was sufficiently large for the time being. It was completed and ready for occupation in the fall of 1907.

Fr. Berg was the first resident priest. A little later Fr. Caraher had charge of the Mission, and he was followed by Fr. Wm. Brown, both also being resident priests.

In 1915 Fr. A. Benoit became Parish priest, with his residence at Wilcox, Sask. By the year 1919 the accommodation of the little church became totally inadequate, when plans were made for the erection of a new \$20,000.00 brick building on the corner of Main street and Martin Ave. St. Aloysius Church was completed and dedicated by Archbishop Mathieu in September 1920.

1908

STONE BOARD OF TRADE

In 1908, Milestone Board of Trade became a member of the Associated Boards of Trade of Moose Jaw and Soo Line towns. The main object was to take part in a comprehensive co-operative scheme for advertising the whole district. Each town and local district compiled their own information and forwarded same to the Secretary of the Associated Boards of Trade at Drinkwater.

Milestone's contribution of advertising material contained first, a general description of the town and district; then specifically set out the good points and advantages of the town, such as, hotel accommodation, school and churches, noting also the various businesses already established and advising as to any new openings in the town for business or professional men. The document also carried a careful description of the quality of the land adjacent to Milestone, noting its adaptability to the production of various kinds of crops and the possibility of renting or buying land in the district, and quoting the usual going prices and terms of sale. A Government report of the actual yields of various crops in the district in previous years, was also included.

A committee, consisting of R. S. Anderson, Milestone, N. H. Dickinson, Drinkwater and Hugh McKeller, Commissioner for the Moose Jaw Board of Trade, arranged all information into a twenty-four page advertising pamphlet,

and provided for the publication of 20,000 copies. Most of these were distributed at the Dominion Fair held at Calgary in July. Some were sent to the different towns for personal distribution. Each town in the Association was assessed about \$100 to defray the expense of publishing and distributing the pamphlets.

At the same time each town and local district was asked to provide an exhibit of grains and grasses and any other product they saw fit to enter. The Milestone exhibit was carefully prepared and included some excellent samples of cured hams and bacon from the local packing plant of Hugh Townsend and Company.

Mr. M. F. Nicholas, of Milestone, was appointed to arrange and handle the exhibit and distribution of the pamphlets, at the Calgary exhibition.

At a meeting of the Board of Trade held on Feb. 10th, 1909, a resolution was passed recommending to the Associated Boards of Trade that they investigate the advisability of securing a graded road paralleling the C.P.R. from Portal to Pasqua; and if considered feasible, to ascertain the best method and probable cost of securing such a road at an early date.

Mr. R. S. Anderson had always been the "spark-plug" of the Board of Trade, and when he retired from business in the spring of 1909, the interest in the Board gradually waned. After two more years all operations ceased. This was most unfortunate as the Board of Trade had been rendering valuable service in the development of the town and district.

TELEPHONE INSTALLATION COMPLETED

On April 6th, 1908, a meeting of the subscribers of the Telephone Company was held above the Farmer's Store for reorganization. It proved to be a rather stormy meeting, when Underwood, Hatlen and Garratt, all resigned over a question of policy. New officers were appointed

and the first annual report of the Government showed the following organization for the year 1908: Name, Milestone Farmers Mutual Telephone Company Limited; Incorporated Sept. 18th, 1907. Officers for 1908: A. J. Bradley, President; J. R. Bunn, Vice-president, and J. R. McKenzie, Secretary-Treasurer. Directors: R. S. Anderson for three years, M. F. Nichols for two years and James Ritchie, Sr. for one year.

By-laws and articles of association were dealt with at this meeting, and after lengthy discussion were finally agreed upon and adopted by resolution.

It was thought by some that this was the first rural telephone company organized in the Province; but a communication from the Department of Telephones stated that a few other rural companies had been incorporated prior to 1907, one as early as 1904.

Early in 1908 the telephone wire was strung over the C.P.R. tracks as per blue-print, and carried up town to a private office where a telephone was installed for public use. At night, the wire was always connected with the residence of Dr. Cook, who found it convenient when people along the line required medical service. All this was a temporary arrangement until town construction work had been completed and a central exchange established. This was accomplished during the summer of 1908. As soon as the switch board arrived it was installed in a small room above the Pool hall owned by J. W. Feltis. Miss Fern Nicholas was engaged as the first operator and Miss Annie Munson as assistant. As soon as the switch board installation was completed, about July 1st, arrangements were made with the Saskatchewan Telephone Company for long distance service.

Six other rural companies were organized each connecting with the local exchange. They were each to maintain their own line and to collect the annual assessments made by the original Milestone Rural Telephone

Company. The assessments were the same for all lines and averaged about twelve to fifteen dollars per phone per year, divided into two payments, January 1st and July 1st. The Milestone Rural Company owned and operated the local exchange, engaging and paying all employees, including a trouble shooter for all lines.

This co-operative telephone system has always given good satisfaction, the annual rate for service being only a little over half that charged under the Government system.

BACHELOR'S BANQUET

On April 1st, "All Fools' Day," a Bachelor's Banquet was held at G. D. Tice's restaurant which was considered one of the most unique and successful events staged during the winter of 1908. Half a dozen of the most pronounced, most hardened old bachelors were the prime promoters of the affair; and every bachelor in the district 25 years of age or over, (and they were legion) was invited to attend. There was just one condition: every bachelor must bring a lady. Twenty-three bachelors arrived but only twenty-two ladies. One poor fellow, after beating the bush in every direction came, with a crest-fallen expression, without a lady.

After an enjoyable and well served dinner, the Chairman, Mr. T. A. Hill, opened the more serious part of the proceedings by offering a toast to the bachelors. He gave a very fine address, concluding by saying, "The bachelors of Milestone are making history in sponsoring this unique affair and I hope and believe that this event will have far reaching consequences."

Mr. A. W. Garratt, replying to the toast to the bachelors, said he had heard some sarcastic remarks such as "The old fools roundup" and "Their last gasp". He did not think it was their last gasp and he reminded his taunters that the bachelors were sponsoring this banquet on "leap year".

Mr. Hardie Craddock proposed a toast to the ladies and had been asked to speak on the subject "The advisability of importing marriagable ladies into the country." He covered the subject in a very humorous speech and concluded by saying as far as he could see that was the only way to remedy the deplorable scarcity of girls.

Mr. C. J. McKay, principal of the Milestone school, replied to the toast to the ladies. He gave a very touching address on the influence of the ladies and seemed to be much impressed himself by the subject. He was very sorry for his bachelor friend who had to come without a fair companion.

Mr. Edwin Jones spoke on the subject, "Taxation of Bachelors". He did not agree with the idea and thought that the ladies themselves were accountable for the large number of bachelors in the country. Mr. Paul Arnes, Dr. Stipe, Jno. Spiller and Walter England also gave short speeches on subjects suitable to the occasion.

Throughout the program the speeches were interspersed by selections by the "All Fool's Glee Singers" and by pianoforte duets and solos by Miss B. Bailey and Miss Margaret Pierce.

The chairman in a few well chosen words tendered the thanks of the company to the host and hostess, for the fine spread, to Miss Bailey and Miss Pierce for their valued assistance and to Townsend and Hutt for keeping the electric lights on for extra time.

God Save the King was sung and the company dispersed, all agreeing that they had seldom spent a more enjoyable evening.

NEW ENTERPRISES

In the spring of 1908 Mr. Harry Marshall, from Butte, Montana, arrived in Milestone with the intention of establishing, in or near town, a cement block plant. He purchased from J. J. Currie the three cornered plot on which

later J. H. Murphy's residence was erected, and began at once sinking a well. Water was absolutely necessary for a cement block plant. However, he failed to find water and was forced to move his plant six miles west of town to the spring on the north-west quarter of ~~4-12-20~~. Here he produced sufficient blocks to build half a dozen good sized buildings; but finding the location inconvenient he decided to close up.

The same spring Mr. J. A. Douglas opened a carriage-painting and woodworking shop above Griffith's blacksmith shop. Mr. Douglas, an experienced wood-worker and painter, was a real acquisition to the community; but as the people gradually shifted from wood vehicles to steel and rubber, his business fell off so fast that he was forced to close his shop.

Another prominent and successful business man was Mr. John J. Palin who arrived in 1908. He was a harness maker by trade, having served three years apprenticeship in England. That was a sufficient guarantee that he knew his business, as the farmers of the Milestone district soon discovered. For some two years he worked with Fred Butt in his harness shop, making most of the harness and doing all the repair work. Incidentally he was getting well and favorably acquainted with the farmers of the district. In the spring of 1910 he bought Mr. Butt's building, equipment and stock, to begin business for himself. Beside the harness business, he had a shoe repairing department. Later on he added baggage, Gent's furnishings and Boots and Shoes, specializing in the famous Hart shoes. He apparently did an excellent business, retiring to England in 1920.

BANK OF COMMERCE

The Canadian Bank of Commerce opened a branch at Milestone on August 2nd, 1908 with W. J. Savage as manager. There appeared to be plenty of business for the two banks and soon the Bank of Commerce was

handling the larger and better accounts in the town and district. Longbottom's Hall was rented and the ground floor remodelled for temporary quarters until a new bank building could be erected. A fine two story brick building, trimmed with Bedford stone was erected in 1911, but was not ready for business until the fall of 1912. This was the most substantial and finest looking building yet erected in the Milestone business section. The citizens appreciated this expression of the Bank's confidence in the future prosperity of the community.

THE FIRST AUTOMOBILE

The long expected wonder, the horseless carriage, prophesied so many years ago, came true for Milestone in the spring of 1908. Dr. M. Cook brought in the first automobile to appear in the district. It was a Ford car, but everybody dubbed it a "Tin Lizzie". However, it was just what the Doctor ordered and it served his purpose admirably. Being a wet spring and the roads muddy, the Doctor had plenty of grief. He was accountable too for a few mishaps caused by frightened horses. That, however, was just a passing phase of the introduction of the automobile which rapidly put the driving horse, buggy and carriage completely out of the picture.

About Oct. 1st, 1908 the North Star elevator was totally destroyed by fire. This was the first elevator fire and at the time, the house was carrying 16,000 bushels of wheat. Only about 5,000 bushels were salvaged and that was quite badly damaged. The cause of the fire was given as a hot box at the top of the elevator. The new chemical fire engine was brought into action, but it could not cope with such a fire. The "Fire Brigade" had a hard fight saving the C.P.R. water tank immediately across the tracks from the elevator.

TOWNSITE TROUBLE FINALLY SETTLED

At a meeting of the Town Council held on January 27, 1908, with Mr. J. R. Bunn as mayor, the grievances of the town against Mr. J. E. Martin, the townsite owner, were again up for serious discussion. The memorial that had been presented to Mr. J. W. Smith, Municipal Commissioner, in December, 1906, had been lying dormant but not forgotten. At that time Mr. Smith suggested that some remedial legislation might be necessary. At this council meeting January 27th, a resolution was passed that the same memorial be presented to the Honourable Walter Scott, Premier of the Province of Saskatchewan, or the acting Premier, setting forth the grievances existing between the said town and J. E. Martin, with the following additional advice: "The situation has become intolerable to the citizens of Milestone; and the best public interests of the town would be served by a Remedial Act of the Legislature of Saskatchewan or an Act empowering, if necessary, the expropriation of a fair value, of the entire land holdings of Mr. Martin in the said townsite or any part thereof. It is believed that no single individual should be permitted to obstruct the progress and future of an entire town and that no real injustice would be done to Mr. Martin, and a great boon conferred upon the town if the Legislature would enact some remedial legislation or empower the expropriation of Mr. Martin's landed interests in the said town of Milestone."

The mayor was authorized to present the memorial to the Premier urging that the matter be dealt with at the earliest possible date. He also had a copy of the memorial printed that following week in the Milestone Mail.

A lengthy letter by E. McMiller, Agent for Mr. Martin, appeared in the Milestone Mail on Feb. 21st, dealing with every point of grievance as embodied in the memorial. He stated that the citizens of Milestone had

seriously misjudged Mr. Martin; that he was really a generous man. He had offered a school site free in a better location than the Board had chosen, on which they were willing to squander \$2,000.00 of the people's money. He had set aside ten acres for industrial purposes, and planned for a site for a park and town hall. He had sold the churches their lots at 25% of the list price. He pointed out that while Railway Companies who owned townsites paid no taxes on their unsold town property, Mr. Martin had always paid a very heavy tax to the town. They should have appreciated the fact that a man like Mr. Martin owned the townsite.

About May 1st the Council was advised by Premier Walter Scott that a conference was being arranged to be held in Regina, on May 5th, between the town of Milestone and Mr. J. E. Martin, the townsite owner, to consider his memorial that had been presented to him by the town, and also stating that Mr. Martin had been advised of the date. Mr. Martin apparently ignored the notice, believing, no doubt, that the Legislature could not, or would not move in the matter. The conference was postponed until May 15th, and Mr. Martin was advised that no further postponement could be made. Mr. J. J. Currie, Chairman of the School Board, Mr. R. S. Anderson, Chairman of the Board of Trade and the entire town Council were in attendance to represent the town. Mr. Martin was represented by his Milestone Agents.

As a result of this conference Premier Scott assured the Milestone delegation that at the earliest possible date legislation would be enacted granting relief to the town of Milestone as requested in the memorial submitted.

When Mr. Martin found that the Legislature was actually intending to act in the matter, he hastened to Regina to interview Premier Scott, endeavoring to have all proceeding halted. Failing in this he returned to Milestone to interview the Council in person. At the

regular meeting of the council held on June 8th, he made a proposition which he was requested to put in writing and to have it in the hands of the Secretary by noon the following day. This was done and a meeting of citizens, hurriedly called for the afternoon, dealt with Mr. Martin's proposition, before it was considered by the Council in the evening, May 9th. The proposition was as follows:

"To the Mayor and Council, Town of Milestone.

Gentlemen:

I submit the following for your consideration as a basis of settlement of the townsite controversy:

1. That you exclude the North half and the South West quarter of Sec. 15, Township 12, Range 19, from the townsite.

2. That you reduce the assessment of my taxable property so as to give the town a revenue of not more than \$800.00 for the year 1908.

3. I agree to plat two additional blocks east of Block 5 and to sub-divide same into lots. I will also plat other tracts that will give you approximately the following: 40 lots 50'x140', 5 lots 50'x150' and 8 acres in acreage tracts.

4. I will set aside additions to the school site and cemetery. I also agree to set aside for the extension of Railway Ave. about 5 acres, the same to be continued to the west line of Section 15.

5. I agree to keep all lots now, or to be plated, on both the West and East side of town on the market at reasonable prices on same.

6. The town to pay \$100 per acre for the land for enlargement of school and cemetery sites and \$75 per acre for extension of Railway Ave.

7. That the double tax system be adopted."

At a well attended citizen's meeting held in the afternoon of June 9th., Mr. Martin's proposition and Mr. Mc-Miller's letter to the Milestone Mail were read, but were discussed in a rather half-hearted manner. The meeting assumed the attitude of resurrecting old grudges instead of dealing intelligently and fairly with the various points of the proposition for town expansion. When put to a vote, there were four votes in favor of accepting the offer and eighteen against. Over 50% of the ratepayers present failed to vote at all. In the evening of June 9th, the Council summarily disposed of the matter by passing a resolution that Mr. Martin's proposition be not entertained.

Thus Mr. Martin's first and only real effort to conciliate the town failed completely. He was too late; for at the very same date a bill was before the Legislature empowering the town to expropriate any or all of his town property. The bill was finally passed and received the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor on June 12th, 1908.

That was the finish of Mr. Martin's efforts at town planning for Milestone. It was most unfortunate for both him and the town that he had not been willing to occasionally meet the Council in person, and, in a conciliatory spirit, try to iron-out their differences. He should have realized that with the power of taxation in their hands, the town had a winning position. Even while they were obtaining the special Act of the Legislature, the town was also getting from the Municipal Commission the privilege of setting aside the Town Act, reverting to the single tax basis of assessment for the year 1908. Mr. Martin stated in his proposition to the Council that he was willing to pay \$800.00 taxes for 1908, which was a fair amount; but when the assessment was made on the single tax basis, even after the court of Revision had reduced his assessment 10%, it still increased his taxes to \$2,135.00 or about 45% of the total levy for the year. This was the knock-out blow, and was delivered in the same spirit

and with the same intent as actuated the citizens when the first single tax assessment was made in 1904. They determined then to wreck Mr. Martin's cherished townsite plans and they succeeded absolutely in 1908.

The following is an excerpt from a letter recently received from an old-timer who knew the facts. "I sometimes think that the community treated Mr. Martin rather shabbily in opposing and thwarting, as we did, his plans for zoning, regulating building and general town planning, even going so far as getting a special Act of the Legislature passed to prevent him carrying out his plans. As I see him now, he was a public spirited man who knew a great deal more about town planning and development than we did; but both parties were lacking in tact and consideration for each other's point of view."

In order to recoup himself for some of the excessive taxes he had always paid, Mr. Martin, about August 1st, bought out the Farmer's Store, equipment and stock, and operated a general store, with indifferent success for some two years.

MATINEE CLUB

A considerable number of the more enthusiastic members of Milestone Turf Club held a meeting in April and organized a Matinee Club. They planned to hold at least two matinees a year, the first one billed for June 17th, 1908. There were a number of fairly good local horses and entries were received from Moose Jaw, Weyburn and Rouleau. It was a delightful day and the Matinee proved a huge success.

There were four harness races, trot or pace, including a stallion race. There were running races and a free-for-all, a buggy race, pony races and a mule race. The latter corresponded to the clown at the circus and produced a lot of amusement. Several mules lined up for the race which was won by "Swanson's Pride". This mule refused to start with the field; but after considerable

physical persuasion, fore and aft, she got under way and won the race handily. An immense crowd was in attendance and the Club was gratified with the success of their first venture.

The Matinee Club enjoyed two very successful years but held no races in 1910 owing to the fact that the hotel was closed. This caused enthusiasm to wane to such extent, that the Turf Club turned their land over to the Agricultural Society and as an organization became extinct. Some racing still continued but it was held in conjunction with the Agricultural Fairs.

1909

MILESTONE PUBLISHING COMPANY

The Milestone Publishing Company Limited was incorporated on Feb. 1st, 1909, with a capitalization of \$5,000.00 or 100 shares of \$50.00 each. There were 54 member-shareholders. Their first report to the Government indicated the following organization: President, Dr. M. Cook; Vice-President, Pat Murphy; Directors, R. S. Anderson, L. Hanmer, A. J. Bradley, W. Hammans and G. C. Sylte, Secretary-Treasurer.

A short time prior to this organization, Mr. C. W. Holmes, the editor of the Milestone Mail, had taken a strong stand on certain public questions which stirred the ire of a large number of citizens. The offended parties got together and decided the best way to shut off those unfavorable editorials was to buy out the "Mail"; hence the new organization. They offered Mr. Holmes a good cash price which he accepted and moved to Rosetown where he became the editor of the Rosetown Eagle.

About January 1st, 1909, A. Hatlen had bought the Eastman building; and the new Publishing Company transferred the Mail equipment from there to the Enos Harvey building which they had acquired for that pur-

pose. Mr. C. B. Milberry, the new editor, also moved to the new location, occupying the upper storey as his residence.

The first issue of the Mail under the new management came out on Feb. 2nd, 1909. It carried a very fine editorial, setting forth the general policy of the paper and ending with what might be called a slogan; "A progressive paper for a progressive district."

BUSINESS CHANGES

On November 15th, 1908, Mr. Alex Oddie became a citizen of Milestone. He bought the blacksmith shop and equipment from J. J. Griffith and took possession immediately. About March 1st, 1909, Mr. James Ruddy arrived and bought a half interest in Mr. Oddie's business. Under the firm name of Oddie and Ruddy, the blacksmith shop was carried on until April 1st, 1911, when Mr. Oddie retired with the idea of farming. In the fall of that year, he purchased the farm owned and operated by James Ritchie Sr., since the spring of 1900.

Mr. Ruddy carried on the shop alone for about ten years, when he sold out and moved to B.C., where he purchased a small farm.

In 1909 McKechnie and Coleman sold their drug store to Mr. M. A. Elliot who became a fixture. In 1918 he moved his building to a more central location on main street, being Lot 28, Block 3, only three doors from the Post Office. This was an excellent location and Mr. Elliot found it improved his business materially.

Mr. Elliot always took an active interest in civic affairs. He served eleven years on the Town Council, during five of which, he occupied the Mayor's chair. Later on he was elected on the School Board where he has rendered good service, part of the time as Chairman.

In the spring of 1909 Mr. J. W. Mitchell purchased the store and stock of Mr. R. S. Anderson. Mr. Mitchell always

took an active part in town affairs. He was a member of the town Council for several years, one year as Mayor. He was also a member of the school board for about ten years, acting as Chairman for two years.

DOCTOR TYERMAN

In the spring of the same year Dr. W. W. Tyerman took over the medical practice of Dr. M. Cook and established himself as the reliable family doctor of Milestone and district for about twenty years.

During that period the Doctor attended at the first birthday parties of a whole generation of Milestonites, many of whom are still resident in the district. Those twenty years produced some cold stormy winters, when the doctor was called upon to make many hazardous trips; but when he was called he went, if it was humanly possible to get through. He was very reasonable in his charges and lenient regarding collections.

During the early years the doctor was too busy to take much interest in civic affairs; but later on he was elected to the Milestone School Board on which he served very efficiently as Chairman for two terms.

DWELLING CONSTRUCTION

It has been noted that the majority of the business men who started in Milestone erected two storey buildings, finishing the upper stories as their residences. That plan was convenient and made it possible to get started with less money; but it gave the residential areas rather a ragged appearance. It was said of Milestone that it had the best and most prosperous appearing main street of any town on the Soo Line, excepting Estevan and Weyburn; but that the residential areas did not at all compare with those of contemporary towns.

In 1906 when Milestone became a town, there were still quite a number of shacks in evidence, housing about one third of the population. There were only 18 houses

ranging from fair to good in construction and finish. Five of these were fairly well finished, with hot air furnaces installed. There was very little building in 1907; but 1908 and 1909 saw a real impetus in the construction of better class houses. Four of these were constructed of cement block and the balance were frame. Nearly all were well finished and had hot air furnaces. None were modern but most of them were so constructed as to be easily modernized later on.

When the townsite question was settled, about July 1, 1908, Block 5 was immediately put on the market. The lots were quickly bought up and during the year four dwellings were either finished or in course of construction in Block 5. During the same time four other good houses were being erected in other parts of town.

A. E. Jones finished a new frame house in the fall of 1908. The Milestone Mail had this to say: "The new house erected by A. E. Jones is now ready for occupation and is the finest and most commodious house in town. It has a full sized cement basement and the whole house is finished in natural wood. It will be heated by a hot air furnace and is without doubt the most up-to-date residence in town." There were however, half a dozen other residences that compared favorably with Mr. Jones'.

VOTE ON LOCAL OPTION BYLAW

In the fall of 1909 the citizens of Milestone were split into two opposing camps occasioned by a hotly contested Local Option campaign against the licensed sale of liquor in the town. Hard feelings were engendered which in some cases took a long time to overcome.

Early in year considerable criticism was being heard regarding the manner in which the Imperial Hotel was being handled. The provisions of the Liquor License Act were not being adhered to. The proprietor was apparently more interested in the profits of the liquor bar than

in the convenience and comfort of the travelling public. There were suggestions that the Town Council be requested to submit to a vote of the citizens a Local Option Bylaw as provided by the Saskatchewan Liquor License Act of 1908.

About July 1st, Mr. P. G. Toft became the proprietor of the hotel and immediately began improvements to bring it up to standard as set out in the Liquor License Act.

Notwithstanding these improvements, the citizens decided to call for a vote on a Local Option Bylaw against the licensed sale of liquor in the town. At the regular meeting of the Council held on Oct. 24, 1909, a deputation of citizens and business men waited upon the Council and presented a petition praying the Council to submit to a vote of the people, a Local Option Bylaw.

Mr. Toft, the new proprietor of the hotel also waited upon the Council presenting a petition praying them not to submit the said Bylaw; assuring them that he would conduct his hotel strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Liquor Licence Act. He stated he had fitted up two new sample rooms, a commercial travellers waiting room and five new bedrooms and that he was planning to provide the travelling public with adequate conveniences and comfort. He also stated that, in his opinion, Local Option was not a feasible measure for any town.

After getting legal advice on the matter the Council at their meeting on Nov. 8th introduced a Bylaw of the town of Milestone as to Local Option in said town, under the Liquor License Act of 1908.

The Bylaw was given its first and second readings. It was also arranged by Bylaw that the vote on the Local Option Bylaw should be taken at the same time and place and by the same officials as the town election for mayor and councillors which was Dec. 13, 1909. A mayor and

three councillors were to be elected. The result of nomination day indicated nominations for a mayor and three councillors in favor of the Bylaw, and for a mayor and three councillors opposed. The stage was all set for a real lively campaign. During the seven weeks campaign, the Milestone Mail had carried many lengthy articles for and against the licensed sale of liquor so that the voters were well provided with information on the subject. When the results of the polling came out it was found a complete dry slate had been elected as members of the new council, with a majority vote of 10 in favor of the Bylaw.

At the last meeting of the Council held on Dec. 27th, the Local Option Bylaw was given its third reading and finally passed, which meant that Mr. Toft's license to sell liquor in the town of Milestone would expire on June 30th, 1910 and could not be renewed for three years.

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF CALEDONIA NO. 99. ORGANIZED

During the period from 1904 to the fall of 1909 Local Improvement District No. 6P. 2 had been doing excellent work. As noted before, their 1907 expenditures for public works had reached the sum of \$3,200.00. Their powers for taxation were limited to 5c per acre, and for borrowing, to short bank loans not exceeding 50% of the estimated tax revenue for the year. They had no power to borrow on debenture security. With some difficulty they had managed to balance their budget each year and they were not in debt. However, the time had arrived when the citizens considered it wise to organize the larger unit, under the Rural Municipalities Act. Hence, in the fall of 1909, the Rural Municipality of Caledonia, No. 99, was duly formed to take effect on December 13th. The first election for Reeve and councillors produced the following results:

Reeve	W. Albert Ross
Div. 1, Councillor	Wm. Couves
Div. 2, Councillor	H. Day
Div. 3, Councillor	Frank Howell
Div. 4, Councillor	R. L. Purvis
Div. 5, Councillor	C. F. Rohrke
Div. 6, Councillor	Mr. Ramsay

The first council meeting was held on Dec. 21st, when Mr. J. A. Moorhead was appointed Secretary-Treasurer.

Under the new set-up the Council had power to borrow money on debenture security for special purposes. They were also empowered to assess at a higher rate, 25 mills on the actual value of the land, the limit being $6\frac{1}{4}$ cents per acre for all municipal purposes. They also had the responsibility of financing all rural and village school districts within the Municipality.

Prior to this date each school district was empowered to assess and collect taxes sufficient for their own annual requirements; while under the new arrangement the school boards simply filed with the Municipal Secretary a requisition covering their estimated expenditure for the year. The Council then figured out a millage rate sufficient for all school purposes and applied that rate to the ordinary municipal assessment. This was a great improvement on the old method and gave the Municipality some check on any School Board that might tend to become profligate in their expenditures.

1910

NEW POST MASTER

On March 30th, 1910, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Turner became citizens of Milestone. Mr. Turner had accepted a position in the office of A. W. Garratt.

About Nov. 1st, circumstances occurred which rendered it necessary to appoint a new Post Master in Milestone. Miss Jennie C. Carlson, who for nearly eleven years had full charge of the Post Office as assistant Post Master, and who had conducted it with marked ability and satisfaction to the public, gave notice of her resignation. Mr. A. Carlson, the Post Master also resigned, both resignations to take effect on Dec. 1st, 1910.

Mr. W. G. Turner, having had considerable experience in Post Office work, made application for the appointment as Post Master. He was a man of sterling integrity and was otherwise well qualified for the position. A well signed petition by the citizens of the town and community supported his application. A. W. Garratt, being an interested party, willingly released Mr. Turner from the position in his office and also used what influence he had in securing his appointment. On Dec. 1st, 1910, Mr. W. G. Turner was duly installed as Post Master of the town of Milestone, with Mrs. Turner as his assistant.

Incidentally it might be noted that on Feb. 22nd, 1911, A. W. Garratt and Miss Jennie C. Carlson, the former Post Mistress, were united in marriage, which fact throws some light on the cause of the change in Milestone postal officials.

For thirty-three years Mr. and Mrs. Turner conducted the Post Office in a very satisfactory manner.

During their residence in Milestone, the Turners became identified with the various organizations of the Methodist church and later with the United Church. Mr. Turner also took an active interest in civic affairs. He

was a member of the town council for several terms. He also received the appointment of a Justice of the Peace, which position he handled very efficiently. He was always loaded with various secretarial jobs which carried little or no remuneration.

Mr. Turner was deeply interested in all forms of outdoor sport and was a keen curler, tennis player and golfer.

OTHER BUSINESS CHANGES

In the spring of 1906 Mr. Halden E. Greer took a position as clerk in Wm. Franklin's general store. In March, 1910 he, in partnership with Homer Worden, of Indian Head, bought Mr. Franklin's store, equipment and stock and began business under the firm name of Greer and Worden. The following spring Mr. Greer was married to Miss Ethel Stover. Mr. and Mrs. Greer were closely connected with the social life of the town and Mr. Greer took a hearty interest in town affairs. He was a member of the town council for two years. Mr. Greer was fond of outdoor sports, especially tennis and curling. He was perhaps the loudest curler that the "roarin' game" had developed up to that date.

About Feb. 1st, 1910, Mr. R. N. Thorburn purchased the hardware store and stock of Mr. Jas. Evans, which was formerly owned and operated by Horace Pain. He carried on the hardware until his death in June, 1932. Mr. Thorburn was always connected with the choir of the Presbyterian church and of the United church after union. He was greatly interested in the young people especially if they were musical. His generous annual Christmas gifts to the Primary, Sunday school scholars will be long remembered.

HOTEL CLOSED

Soon after Mr. Toffit's license expired he closed up, declaring that no one could run a hotel in Milestone without the liquor trade. Immediately the town began to feel

the serious handicap of having no accommodation for the travelling public. This was one of the strong arguments against Local Option. There were a lot of people travelling that fall and it was annoying for people getting off the train to find the hotel locked. It certainly gave the town a black eye.

On Sept. 8th, 1910, the Milestone Mail carried a notice that Milestone Hotel Company had been organized to buy the Imperial Hotel or to build at once. The idea was to make an attempt at running a good hotel without the bar. However, there was nothing further heard of this organization. On Nov. 25th, Major Tofft sold his entire hotel equipment and furniture by public auction and left the town forthwith.

Legally, Milestone was dry; and there was noticeably less drinking and fewer drunks than formerly. There was more money being spent on the necessities of life. There was, however, a lot of liquor still being handled. The traffic had merely been driven under cover. Blind pigs and other methods of illicit handling soon became rampant. Convictions for infractions of the Liquor License Act were extremely difficult to get; and, to the minds of some who had voted for Local Option, it was becoming doubtful if the liquor traffic could ever be curtailed by legal enactment.

PROSPEROUS YEAR

1910 was an unusual year. There was plenty of moisture in the spring to give crops a fine start, then on June 3rd and 4th there was a heavy fall of rain, sleet and snow. Some farmers came to town with sleighs, but went home on horseback. From that date until the middle of harvest there was not another shower; yet the whole Soo Line district yielded an excellent crop.

The following is a record of a section and a half farm not far from Milestone (770 acres of this ~~section~~ ^{farm} were in crop):

200 acres wheat yielded 8,000 bushels; 275 acres of flax yielded 4,865 bushels; 140 acres flax yielded 1,820 bushels; 20 acres flax on fallow yielded 601 bushels; 135 acres oats made a fine crop but definite figures were not available. Similar results were common throughout the whole district where good farming methods were employed.

LITERARY AND MUSICAL TALENT

Milestone was fortunate during her pioneering years, in possessing a lot of good literary and musical talent. A literary and debating society was organized in the winter of 1903-04 and was continued every winter for several years. Some excellent debates were held and many good speakers were developed. Mock parliaments and mock trials were staged delighting the packed audiences which attended those events.

Good musical talent both vocal and instrumental began to appear in the very early years. In 1902 Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Jones arrived in Milestone to become valued citizens. Mrs. Jones was an accomplished musician, pianist, organist and singer, and was the first music teacher in the village. There certainly was a large place for Mrs. Jones in Milestone and she filled it with marked ability and devotion. She always gave freely of her time and talents to the churches and to any creditable organizations sponsoring local talent concerts and the like. Mrs. Jones stood for the finer things in life and Milestone was fortunate in those early years, in having her as a citizen.

Dr. Miles LeClaire and James Ritchie Jr. both arrived in 1902. The doctor had an excellent bass voice and like Mrs. Jones, was always ready to assist in any local concert or in the churches where special music was being rendered. James Ritchie was a splendid tenor singer and organized the first choir in the village.

Mrs. Rev. W. W. Wagg, a fine soprano singer and Mrs. R. S. Anderson, who both arrived in 1903, organized the first Methodist choir with Mrs. Anderson as organist. Also arriving about this time were the Cave sisters; Miss Myra, a fine soprano and Miss Vic, contralto. They were excellent entertainers with their duets and were always connected with one of the choirs. Miss Helene Cameron arrived about 1903 and immediately took her place in the music circles as a leading contralto singer. Mr. L. Hambley, another all-around musician, was a good pianist and bass singer. He was organist in the Methodist choir for some time.

Mrs. A. E. Jones who arrived in the spring of 1902 possessed a rich deep contralto voice, and was usually connected with the church choirs and other musical groups.

Miss Annie Garratt, also a contralto singer, was ever ready to assist the choirs and any other musical program where she fitted in.

Mr. Ormand Windrem, a homesteader near the village was always in demand with his excellent bass voice.

Mrs. Jean Weiss, who arrived about 1906 was one of the leading soprano singers of the town. She was soloist in the Presbyterian choir.

Mr. Wm. Ramsay became a citizen in 1907 and was another valued addition to the musical fraternity. He was leader of the Methodist choir for a couple of years.

Mr. Henry Biley and his daughters, Myrtle and Zella, were always closely connected with the choirs.

There were several other singers of lesser calibre who worked in nicely with the leaders, so that right from the first the churches could muster very creditable choirs, and home talent concerts were staged with marked success.

Mr. Wm. Gee, a clarinet player and Mr. J. B. Gillesby, a violinist were both good players and always ready to assist in any musical entertainment.

As early as 1906 there was sufficient experienced musical talent to organize a brass band.

The first Provincial Musical Festival was held at Regina in May, 1909, when a mixed quartette of Milestone singers made entry for competition. The personnel of the quartette as first selected, was Mrs. Jean Weiss, soprano; Miss Helena Cameron, contralto; Mr. L. Hambly, bass, and Mr. Wm. Ramsay, tenor; with Mrs. R. B. Jones as accompanist. Unfortunately, just before the date of the Festival Miss Cameron was taken ill, when the versatile Mrs. Jones stepped into the breach, handling the contralto part with perfect satisfaction. After this change Miss Edith Cameron was chosen as accompanist. The quartette won the silver medal in competition with five other quartettes; and the adjudicator, commenting on their excellent performance also complimented Miss Cameron, their accompanist. Milestone was justly proud of their quartette in capturing the medal.

About Dec. 1st, 1909, Mr. Jno. R. Bunn presented the quartette with handsome gold medals, appropriately inscribed, a memento of their victory at the musical festival held at Regina the previous May.

Needless to say the medals were highly appreciated by the members of the quartette. The presentation was an evidence of Mr. Bunn's keen interest in the development of music as one of the higher arts.

The outstanding characteristic of the whole musical fraternity during those early days was their cordial co-operation, always being ready to assist each other where special music was being rendered.

FRATERNAL SOCIETIES

We have already noted the organization of the first fraternal society in Milestone, the Independent Order of Foresters, in 1902, which continued until 1907. In June, 1908, the Canadian Order of Foresters was organized, but lived only a couple of years. The Independent Order of Oddfellows was organized on February 25th, 1910, with a fairly large number of charter members. Although fluctuating up and down in membership and interest, it remained a popular society and is still going strong.

In Retrospect

There has never been in the history of Western Canada such a remarkable immigration movement as that which occurred during the first decade of the present century. Thousands of settlers came pouring in from eastern Canada, the British Isles, from other European countries and from the United States. Those from the East were seeking principally the free homestead lands; while the majority of the Americans were settling on lands purchased from large land companies or from local dealers.

A large part of this immigration was directed toward that immense open area of excellent farm lands, situated along the Soo Line Extension of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Milestone district received its full share. This has been fully dealt with earlier. During that decade nearly four hundred farmers settled in this district. By the end of the year 1904 all of the best available homesteads within a radius of ten or twelve miles of town had been filed on or taken up by the holders of Government Scrip. The interspaces among the homestead lands were being filled up by American settlers or by others who had sufficient means to purchase land. This created a fairly compact settlement, which facilitated the opening up of roads, and the organization and support of good country schools.

The following School Districts in the Milestone area, organized prior to 1910 are noted in the order of the dates of their organization. In each case it required about six months to issue debentures and get a school building ready for operation. The names of the first teacher are also given.

Milestone S.D. No. 595, April 7, 1901—first teacher—
A. W. Garratt.

Norland S.D. No. 819, March 30, 1903—first teacher—Miss
Rae Dixon.

Hartley S.D. No. 987, March 11, 1904—first teacher—Miss K. L. Sturdevant.

McCoy S.D. No. 1062, July 15, 1904—teacher—Miss May Judiesch.

Glenn S.D. No. 1263, April 12, 1905—teacher—Miss Abigail Phillips.

Caledonia S.D. No. 1454(December 19, 1905—teach—Miss Helena Hunter.

Sydney S.D. No. 1527, May 7th, 1906—teacher—Miss Lucy Spellman.

Willow Creek S.D. No. 2046, April 8th, 1908—teacher—Frank C. Darling.

Emerald Hill S.D. No. 2182, September 9th, 1908—teacher—Miss Rheta Babel.

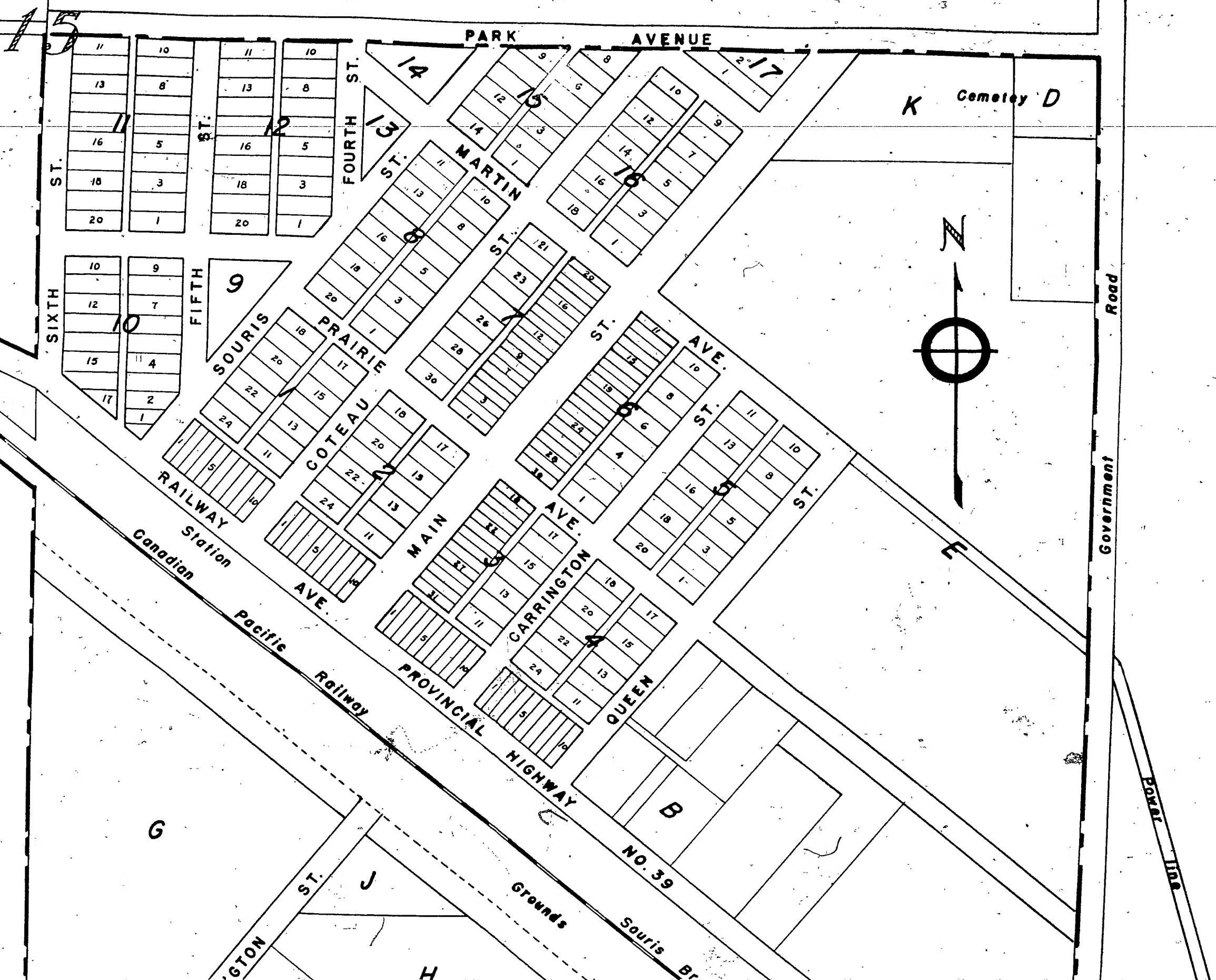
Brighton S.D. No. 2380, May 25th, 1909—teacher—Miss Alice Beattie.

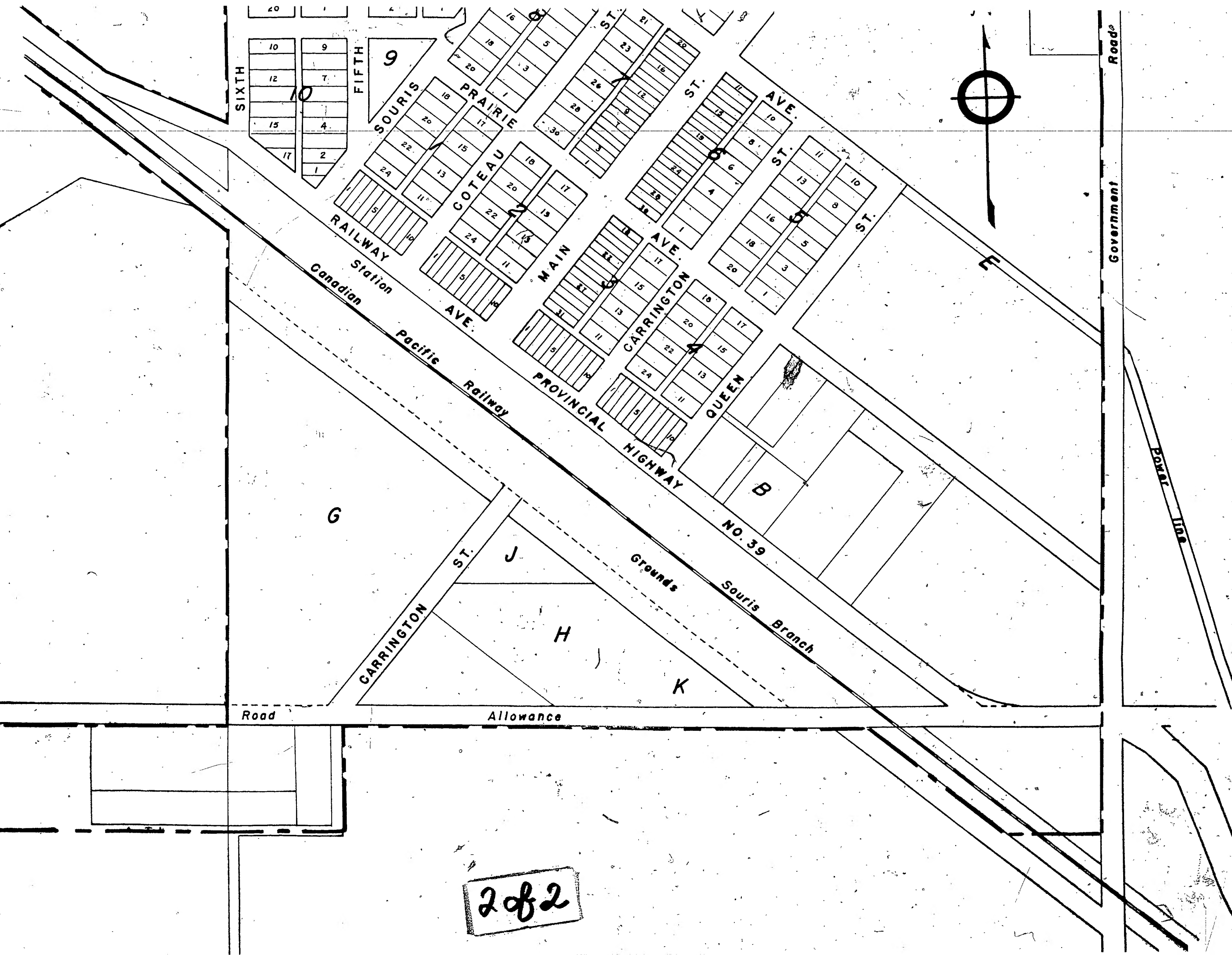
For several years nearly all these schools had average attendances ranging from 15 to 30 pupils. Those were the days when farmers remained on their farms the year round, and when the school house became, more or less, the center for social and community activities. Those good old days developed a more wholesome quality of living than obtained later on when many of the farmers, deserting their farms, moved to town during the winter months.

The early settlers experienced a few years of rugged pioneering, enduring many hardships and privations; but they had unbounded faith in the land they had chosen, and as soon as they had discovered the proper method of farming the heavy clay soil, a fair degree of prosperity was in evidence. The long line of eight elevators in Milestone indicated that fact. It was reported that on two occasions during the first ten crop years 1,000,000 bushels of grain were shipped from this point.

A tribute of praise is due those early pioneers, both men and women, who must have visualised a great future for their district, and who by their industry and perseverance were able to transform those visions into actual accomplishments. By the year 1910 the Milestone district had attained a Province wide reputation as one of the finest wheat and flax producing areas in the West. It had also acquired a more important reputation, that of being a community of honorable, progressive people, infused with a fine spirit of neighborliness and co-operation.

108





SIXTH

FIFTH

10
12
15
17
9
7
4
2
1

9

SOURIS

PRAIRIE

GATEAU

RAILWAY
Station

AVE.

MAIN

AVE.

CARRINGTON

QUEEN

AVE.

ST.

ST.

Canadian Pacific

Railway

PROVINCIAL
HIGHWAY

NO. 39

Grounds
Souris Branch

6

ST.

CARRINGTON

J

H

K

Road

Allowance



Road

Government

POWER
LINE

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